

**BEFORE THE
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF INDIANA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

MISCELLANEOUS RULE AMENDMENTS)	Administrative Cause
GOVERNING FISH AND WILDLIFE,)	Number 12-184D
312 IAC 9)	(LSA Document # 12-670(F))

**REPORT ON RULE PROCESSING, CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS,
ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING FINAL ADOPTION**

1. RULE PROCESSING

For consideration is a proposal to amend numerous rules governing various aspects of fish and wildlife management.

Included are amendments at 312 IAC 9-2-14 to add an individual serving as a trustee as well as individual members of an immediate family who are trust beneficiaries as an “owner” who is exempt from the hunting, trapping and fishing license requirements set forth in I.C. 14-22-11-1.

New requirements associated with the use of hunter orange on ground blinds are provided for in added 312 IAC 9-2-15. The addition of this rule results in the contemporaneous deletion of 312 IAC 9-3-2(u).

Further proposed amendments to 312 IAC 9-3-2 involve the addition of subsection (j) to identify the types of licenses an individual may use to take deer during the primitive muzzleloader season that would be established by a proposed amendment to 312 IAC 9-3-4(i). The establishment of a primitive muzzleloader season requires the correlary amendment to 312 IAC 9-3-3 to identify the equipment that may be used to hunt deer during that season.

The amendment at 312 IAC 9-3-4(c) proposes to extend the archery season by adding the period of time from September 15 through September 30 to the beginning of the existing season. The related amendment to 312 IAC 9-3-2(b) would prohibit the use of crossbows during the new extended portion of the archery season.

With respect to the regulation of other mammals, amendments to 312 IAC 9-3-14.5 will make various changes associated with the possession, sale, or other disposition of a lawfully taken furbearing mammal. The season for taking cottontail rabbits will be lengthened by beginning the season two days earlier and closing the season 13 days later through an amendment to 312 IAC 9-3-16(a). Amendments to subsection (c) of the same rule will eliminate the distinct season for taking cottontail rabbits on fish and wildlife areas and parks and reservoir properties. The opening day of squirrel season will be advanced from November 3 to November 1, the prohibition on taking southern flying squirrels is modified through an amendment to 312 IAC 9-3-17.

Multiple amendments are proposed for 312 IAC 9-4-2 with respect to taking migratory birds. Some of the most notable proposed amendments will allow the hunting of Eurasian collared doves during the season for mourning doves without the need for registration with the Harvest Information Program and will prohibit the possession of lead shot while hunting mourning doves on a department property. Other amendments will address the taking and possession of migratory birds and raptors; will authorize the taking of eggs and nests of the Canada goose in accordance with federal law without the need for a department permit and address the taking of migratory birds that are damaging or threatening to cause damage or are causing a health or safety issue. Also proposed is an amendment to 312 IAC 9-3-15 to allow a resident landowner or tenant to take a mute swan that is damaging property without a permit. The season for taking ring-necked pheasant will be changed and the distinct season for taking ring-necked pheasant on certain identified department properties will be eliminated through proposed amendments to 312 IAC 9-4-8. The zones associated with quail hunting as well as the season dates and north zone bag limit will be altered through amendments to 312 IAC 9-4-9. Through amendments to 312 IAC 9-4-14, the Peregrine falcon will be removed from the list of endangered birds.

The proposed amendments to 312 IAC 9-7-6 will amend the size limits and bag limits for black bass on Scales Lake, Gibson Lake and Big Long Lake and a minimum size limit and bag limit will be imposed upon the taking of walleye from Wall Lake through proposed amendments to 312 IAC 9-7-12. A take and possession limit will be imposed on lake whitefish through the proposed addition of 312 IAC 9-7-21.

The proposal to add subsections (c) and (d) to 312 IAC 9-7-14 and the amendments to 312 IAC 9-7-20 address the handling of roe from a bowfin and a shovelnose sturgeon, respectively, and are corollary to the recent adoption of 312 IAC 9-8-7 addressing the roe harvester license as required by I.C. 14-22-13-2.5.

Additional amendments are also made.

The Natural Resources Commission (*NRC*) granted preliminary adoption of this rule amendment proposal on November 20, 2012.

The “Notice of Intent” to adopt the proposed rule amendment was posted to the INDIANA REGISTER database website as 20130102-IR-312120670NIA on January 2, 2013. The notice identified Linnea Petercheff, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, as the “small business regulatory coordinator” for purposes of Indiana Code § 4-22-2-28.1.

The Commission caused the information required by I.C. 4-22-2-22.5 to be included within the rulemaking docket maintained on the its Internet website.

Executive Order 13-03 requires agencies to “suspend rulemaking action on any proposed rules for which a notice of intent to adopt a rule...was not submitted to the office of the *Indiana Register* on or before January 14, 2013.” The Natural Resources Commission was obligated to “notify OMB as soon as practicable of all pending, non-final rules, namely all proposed rules for which a notice of intent to adopt a rule...was submitted to the office of the *Indiana Register* before January 14, 2013. The requirements of Executive Order 13-03 were restated, along with additional compliance information in Financial Management Circular 2013-01. This proposed rule, with the Notice of Intent posted to the INDIANA REGISTER database website on January 2, 2013 is within the latter category. It was clarified by Alexandra K. Ibragic, OMB Budget Analyst, on February 25, 2013 that pending, nonfinal rules “do not need to receive an exception from the Regulatory Moratorium. The requirement in the FMC [Financial Management Circular] concerning these rules is a reporting requirement only.” In compliance with Executive Order 13-03 and Financial Management Circular 2013-01, the Natural Resources Commission

submitted a report of all pending non-final rules, including this proposed rule, to OMB on February 25, 2013.

As specified by Executive Order 2-89 and Financial Management Circular 2010-4, fiscal analyses of the rule proposal were submitted, along with a copy of the proposed rule language and a copy of the posted Notice of Intent, to the Office of Management and Budget on January 3, 2013. In a letter dated April 18, 2013, Christopher D. Atkins, Director, Office of Management and Budget, recommended that the proposed rule amendments be approved.

A copy of the economic impact analysis for small business was submitted to the Indiana Economic Development Commission (“IEDC”) on May 8, 2013. Eric P. Shields, Policy Director for the IEDC, reviewed the analysis and reported favorably to the Commission by an email letter dated May 29, 2013. Later on the same day, the Commission’s Division of Hearings, by email, thanked the IEDC for the favorable review of the agency’s fiscal analysis and notified the IEDC of its intent to recommend that the Natural Resources Commission move forward with final adoption of the proposed rule. The IEDC comments were posted to the Commission’s Website on May 30, 2013 at <http://www.in.gov/nrc/2377.htm>, and were also made available at the public hearing.

The NRC Division of Hearings submitted the rule proposal to the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) along with the “Statement Concerning Rules Affecting Small Business” (also known as the “Economic Impact Statement”) on May 3, 2013. The Notice of Public Hearing was submitted to LSA on May 8, 2013. The Notice of Public Hearing, along with the Economic Impact Statement and the text of the proposed rule was posted to the INDIANA REGISTER database website on May 15, 2013 as 20130515-IR-312120670PRA. Following receipt of an “Authorization to Proceed” from LSA on May 8, 2013, the NRC Division of Hearings also caused a Notice of Public Hearing to be published by the Indianapolis Newspapers, a newspaper of general circulation in Marion County, Indiana, on May 13, 2013. In addition, notice of the public hearing and a summary of the proposed rule changes were published on the NRC’s web-based electronic calendar.

2. REPORT OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

a) Public Hearing Comments

Two public hearings were conducted as scheduled. The first occurred at Mounds State Park in Anderson Indiana on June 10, 2013 and the second occurred at Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell, Indiana on June 13, 2013. Sandra Jensen served as the hearing officer. Linnea Petercheff and Mitch Marcus participated on behalf of the Department's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Lt. Col. Steve Hunter participated on behalf of the Department's Division of Law Enforcement. The Department's Division of Fish and Wildlife, Director, Mark Reiter, also participated in the June 13, 2013 public hearing. A total of six adult members of the public attended the two public hearings. A summary of the oral comments received at the public hearings has been attached and incorporated by reference as Exhibit A.

b) Comments Received Outside Public Hearing

An opportunity was provided for the public to submit written comments from approximately November 2012 until June 13, 2013. Written comments were received through the U.S. Postal Service and through the Commission's online comment form. These comments have been reproduced, attached and incorporated by reference as Exhibit B¹.

c) Response by the Department of Natural Resources

The Department offered a written response to the public comments on June 24, 2013. A copy of the Department's response is attached as Exhibit C and is incorporated by reference.

3. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

The vast majority of the public comments received are directed towards the amendments to the deer hunting rules. Particularly at issue is the addition of a primitive muzzleloader season through the addition of 312 IAC 9-3-4(i) and the lengthening of the archery season by beginning the season on September 15 instead of October 1 through the amendment of 312 IAC 9-3-4(c).

¹ Seven comments received via the Natural Resources Commission's online comment do not comply with *Citizen Comments to Hearing Officers, Information Bulletin #55, (Second Amendment) August 1, 2010*, because they fail to provide the identity of the person offering the comment. In each instance the person provides only a first name. These comments are maintained in the file as public records but in accordance with *Information Bulletin #55* these comments have not been included in this report and have not been considered in the preparation of this report.

The public comments offer limited support for these amendments but the majority of individuals offering comments oppose these changes to the administrative rules for a variety of reasons. Some of the more common reasons given in opposition to the new or revised deer seasons include the following:

1. Beginning the deer season in September is too early because:
 - a. Of increased incidents of meat spoilage and waste of harvested animals; and
 - b. Fawns are still nursing.
2. There is no need to create a specialized muzzleloader season because primitive muzzleloaders are allowed during the existing muzzleloader season. The same is true for archery in that both vertical archery hunters and crossbow hunters are accommodated by the existing archery season.
3. There are already too many specialized seasons, which leads to animosity between different groups of deer hunters.
4. The length of the combined seasons is already too long and is putting undue pressure on the deer resource.
5. The extension of the archery season into September will increase interference with other seasons such as squirrel season.
6. The administrative rules relating to deer hunting have undergone significant change in the past two years and for this reason the rules should be left unchanged for a period of time to allow for evaluation.
7. The continual amendment of the administrative rules associated with deer hunting is creating confusion for the hunting public.

Further comments relating to deer hunting involve the prohibition on the use of crossbows in the newly extended portion of the archery season (September 15 through September 30) as is proposed at 312 IAC 9-3-3(b). Again there is limited support for the establishment of a period of time in which only vertical archery equipment may be used but the majority of individuals commenting expressed opposition to the restriction on the use of crossbows during the extended portion of the archery season.

The Department observes that,

These two changes are not needed to manage the deer herd and are not supported by the majority of those who commented on this rule package.

For this reason the Department has recommended that the proposed rule be revised to withdraw the proposed amendment to establish a primitive muzzleloader season and extend the archery season.

The Department also recommends that the proposed amendment to 312 IAC 9-3-3(b)(5)(A) be revised. This subdivision places a restriction on the use of archery release devices and the Department observes;

With crossbows being legal during the regular archery season that starts on October 1 as well as the urban deer season, there is no longer a need to prohibit the use of draw-locs and other devices used on a bow that help draw, hold, or release the bow during these seasons.

With respect to the remaining proposed amendments there was little comment. However, there were a limited number of comments supporting the proposed bag and size limit for Walleye on Wall Lake. One comment expressed the opinion that for consistency and clarity the hunting seasons on Department properties should remain in the administrative rules instead of allowing the properties to make decisions regarding hunting opportunities. Comments relating to the removal of the Peregrine Falcon from the endangered species list offer differences of opinion as to the appropriateness of this action.

A few individuals offered comments in opposition to the elimination of rabbit hunting in October on Department properties. In addition to other reasons for this amendment, the Department's response explains that the rule amendment is needed to address new research results that indicate "that the rabbit breeding season runs from mid-February through September, with some young born or in nests through mid-October." If for no other reason this proposed amendment appears to be appropriate based upon a consideration of the welfare of the species.

At least one individual commented in opposition to the elimination of the slot limit on black bass on Scales Lake. The Department's response indicates that anglers "preferred fishing for bluegill (60%) versus other species" and for this reason the Department is managing Scales Lake for "the best bluegill and redear sunfish fishing possible." To this end the Department observes the need to increase predator fish in the lake, which is accomplished, in part, by eliminating the slot limit on black bass. The determination to manage Scales Lake to increase the fishing experience for bluegill and redear versus black bass is an apparent attempt to manage the lake in a manner consistent with the preference of the majority of anglers.

It was discovered that an erroneous citation to 50 CFR 20 exists in the proposed amendment to 312 IAC 9-4-7(s) and it is recommended that the citation be corrected to 50 CFR 21. This revision prevents an inconsistency between this administrative rule and the counterpart federal regulation but does not cause the rule language to substantially differ from the rule language as posted to the INDIANA REGISTER database website on May 15, 2013. It is the opinion of the hearing officer that this revision is authorized by I.C. 4-22-2-29.

The revisions suggested by the Department are consistent with the comments received from the public. It is the opinion of the hearing officer that the suggested revisions are also a logical outgrowth of the proposed rule as posted to the INDIANA REGISTER database website on May 15, 2013. For these reasons the Natural Resources Commission's revision of the proposed rule is seemingly authorized by I.C. 4-22-2-27, which requires consideration of public comments and I.C. 4-22-2-29, which authorizes revisions under specified circumstances.

The hearing officer recommends that the revision suggested by the Department at 312 IAC 9-3-3(b)(5)(A) to eliminate the restrictions on the use of archery release devices be granted final adoption. Except as to those portions of 312 IAC 9-3-2, 312 IAC 9-3-3 and 312 IAC 9-3-4 that establish a primitive muzzleloader season and extend the archery season, the hearing officer further recommends that the Commission grant final adoption to the proposed rule as written.

The hearing officer makes no recommendation as to final adoption of amendments to 312 IAC 9-3-2, 312 IAC 9-3-3 and 312 IAC 9-3-4 relating to the establishment of a primitive muzzleloader season or the extension of the archery season. While the Commission's action is not limited to one of the alternatives suggested by the hearing officer, for ease of the Commission's consideration on final adoption, the hearing officer has attempted to anticipate likely final actions and has provided alternative versions of the rule language consistent with these observations. The rule language as originally proposed but with the recommended revision to 312 IAC 9-3-3(b)(5)(A) and 312 IAC 9-4-7(s) is attached and incorporated by reference as Exhibit D. This version will leave intact the establishment of a primitive muzzleloader season and the extension of the archery season as originally proposed. The original rule language at 312 IAC 9-3-2, 312 IAC 9-3-3 and 312 IAC 9-3-4 as revised to effect the recommended revision at 312 IAC 9-3-3(b)(5)(A) as well as the withdrawal of only the primitive muzzleloader season is attached and incorporated by reference as Exhibit E. A second alternative making the recommended revision to 312 IAC 9-3-3(b)(5)(A) as well as also making revisions to 312 IAC 9-3-3 and 312 IAC 9-3-4 as necessary to withdraw only the extended archery season is attached and incorporated by reference as Exhibit F. A final offered version of revised rule language that will effect the recommended revision to 312 IAC 9-3-3(b)(5)(A) as well as revise the proposed rule language of 312 IAC 9-3-2, 312 IAC 9-3-3 and 312 IAC 9-3-4 to complete the withdrawal of both the primitive muzzleloader season and the extended archery season is attached and incorporated by reference as Exhibit G.

Dated: June 27, 2013

Sandra L. Jensen
Hearing Officer

EXHIBIT A

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT SUMMARY

Bobby Stinson, Delaware County, Indiana

Stinson questioned whether his disability permit would be valid to allow him to hunt with a crossbow during the portion of the archery season from September 15 through October 1. Division of Fish and Wildlife representatives explained that the prohibition on the use of crossbows during that extended season would not impact his use of a crossbow under the authority of a disability permit.

Stinson also suggested that the slot limit for black bass that is effective on portions of the Big Blue River and is being imposed on Big Long Lake also be established at Summit Lake.

Craig Phillips, Zionsville, Indiana

Phillips expressed the opinion that the fish and wildlife rules are lengthy and confusing. Phillips suggested that the rules should be more standardized.

Phillips stated adamant opposition to the prohibition on the use of crossbows during the extended archery season. He added that he purchased crossbows for his two young sons because they are unable presently to pull back standard archery equipment. Phillips offered that the boys were looking forward to the extended season but now realize that they will not be allowed to hunt during that extended season with their crossbows.

Phillips inquired whether the rule will impact the use of crossbows during the urban deer season. Division of Fish and Wildlife staff explained that the rule proposal did not impact the urban deer zone season.

Dean Farr, Indianapolis, Indiana

On behalf of Pheasants Forever, Farr offered support for the proposed amendments to 312 IAC 9-4-8 and 312 IAC 9-4-9 relating to Pheasant and Quail.

From a personal perspective, Farr offered the opinion that the Natural Resources Commission and the Department are generous with respect to identifying individuals who qualify to hunt without a license as a landowner. Farr suggested that the Commission needed to carefully review the amendments associated with estates and trusts in terms of the potential loss of financial resources from federal matching funds.

Greg Thomas, Noblesville, Indiana

Thomas commended the Department and particularly John Castrale, Division of Fish and Wildlife Nongame Biologist, for the efforts at restoration of the Peregrine Falcon that has lead to the ability to remove the bird from the endangered species list in Indiana. Thomas reflected back to a time when, like the Eagle, the Peregrine Falcon was nearly extinct in the State of Indiana noting that now there are probably more Peregrine Falcons now than there ever was.

Doug Allman, Fishers, Indiana

Allman stated support for the change in the start date for rabbit season but expressed uncertainty with respect to the lengthening of the season, explaining that he would like to see more input from the biologists before the season duration was altered.

Allman observed that the proposed amendments will shorten the season as it relates to draw hunts for Pheasant. Again, Allman questioned whether the biologists supported the shortening of the season as being beneficial to the species stating the belief that further discussion was necessary. Allman noted that shortening the season for Ruffed Grouse has not had any positive impact upon that species adding that if shortening the season for Pheasant is not going to aid the species the amendment amounts to nothing more than a decrease in hunting opportunity.

Allman offered support for the addition of the primitive muzzleloader season but added opposition to the proposal that will extend the archery season by adding days in September. Allman elaborated that he supports the idea of having an archery season without crossbows but expressed the opinion that the season should occur for 15 days in October not from September 15 through September 30.

Bill Herring, Morgan County, Indiana

Herring first offered the suggestion that the bag limit for squirrels be increased.

The remainder of his comments related to proposed changes to the deer hunting rules. Herring observed that there were major amendments to the deer hunting rules approximately one year ago noting that those new rules should be in place and used for awhile before any further amendments are considered. Herring noted that all types of weaponry are accommodated by the rules as they are presently written and the establishment of special seasons for different types of weapons is unnecessary. Herring added the opinion that the creation of specialized seasons causes greater compartmentalization of hunters, which instead of unifying the deer hunters actually serves to increase animosities between the different deer hunting groups.

Herring offered opposition to both the extension of the archery season as well as to the establishment of a primitive muzzleloader season. Herring observed that all deer hunting used to occur from October 1 through the first Sunday in January with all the seasons having their own specific time and no season overlapping the other. He offered the alternative that a special primitive season, including both primitive firearms and primitive or traditional archery (not crossbows) be established but maintained that all deer hunting should occur between October 1 and the first Sunday in January.

With respect to the overlapping seasons Herring observed that the archery season allows a person to take one deer of either sex over a period of time that now extends across nearly all the other seasons combined. He questioned whether this was resulting in a loss of revenue for the Department.

EXHIBIT B

<p>Commenter Name ED Hunt City Kokomo County HOWARD State Indiana Organization (optional) Wildcat deerhunters E-Mail Address Rothhar1@aol.com Comments As far as all these new seasons such as the new primitive muzzle loader ' This is totally not need as they have already got the ability to hunt in regular gun season , regular muzzle loader season and now in the unproven late antlerless gun season as well. Why give them a special season at all its totally not neccasary and I am against this proposal. Now for the biggie ..I am so sick of all this whinning by a special intrest group or two that want to hunt alone due to the fact that they just cant share the woods with the new crossbow hunters as it hurts their sensabilites or something on this order . The mear fact that the NRC and these two groups that proposed this is a slap in the face of every deer hunter in this state and stands to ruin much accomplished here in the last year. The reasoning behind allowing crossbow hunting here in the first place .And that reason was to include older hunters who have fallen off from bowhunting and get them back out there and to recruit new hunters like kids and women to early archery season . This this proposal needs to include crossbow hunting to start the same day as bow wich by this new proposal start date of sept.15. But this is a travasty and should of never left the table to be presented to the hunting public for input as writen to exclude crossbows .this type of nonsense must stop.Or i will be forced to contact the my Legislators and and new Governor to do away with the NRC rule making processand request all hunting laws be reveiwed and presented by the state senate or ok through them .This is ridiculous at best .Perhaps its time for the new administartion to clean some house in the DNR and disband the NRC. The fact that we have not ran any of the new laws that we are currently straped with to get some valuable infor mation and decide the impact on th edeer herd th eharvest numbers is yet to be seen .And most importantly just as the DNR makes some all inclusive headway to recruit new hunters we hav etwo same old tired groups and a couple of individuals that are fueled by personal hunting greed and try tio exclud ethe very hunters that the DNR are attempting to recruit and include . If the DNR and NRC do not at least let the new standing laws run for 4 or 5 years to see th eimpact on hunter sand the deer herd we all hunt then all confidence that the vast majority of hunters are starting to slightly gain in them will be lost and expect a massiv ehunter rebellion just as happened in the 1.0 propals from two years ago all over again . These new rules are personal greed driven and need to be tabled or denied until we know the impact of the newest rules we have .These are truely sorry times when politics and insiders with connectins can make laws that exclude other hunters and detriment the deer herd here .There is no biological reason or hunter recruitment reason for either of these seasons at this time. My vote for the new Primitive ML and Sept 15 bow only (exclusion of crossbow) season as proposed is No . Comment Received 12/5/2012 10:44:00 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Robert Mills City English County CRAWFORD State Indiana E-Mail Address btmills2010@frontier.com Comments Gentlemen, In regards to the possible change to the opening of our bow season, I strongly disagree with this decision as well as with the decisions to move the youth season and then add an additional primitive weapons season. The change that was made this year by allowing crossbows to be used in the early bow season was the single worst change to be made in all the years that I have been an Indiana hunter and now this? Our liberal seasons as well as the liberal antlerless tags are destroying our deer herds. Special interest has gotten out of control and needs to take a back seat. People are abusing the system in every way they can and if its not controled it will soon be to late. Im a bowhunter, thats what I enjoy. I made that choice years ago because I wanted to escape what happens during the firearms season. Now you have allowed those same hunters to once again pick up a locked and loaded, shoulder fired weapon and use it durring our bow season. Our seasons need to be shorter, not longer and the antlerless quotas need to be scaled back. Comment Received 12/6/2012 8:51:22 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mary Dian Williams City Denver County MIAMI State Indiana E-Mail Address winding_winds@hotmail.com Comments I like the idea of starting archery Sept 15. However I am against any seperation of crossbows from archery. My husband cannot hunt with a bow and should be able to use his as I am hunting with my compound. It's silly to sepearate crossbows because of some idea that crossbows are not "traditional", heck they are are as old as recurve bows almost. Also, doe limits need decreased in areas hit by EHD. Comment Received 12/6/2012 9:22:20 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Brett J. Dennison City Nashville County Out of State State Tennessee E-Mail Address DaddyBeaz@Gmail.com Comments To Whom It May Concern, I am 6 hours away in Tennessee but I visit Indiana frequently because that is where I was born and raised. When my friends and I come to Indiana we like to fish in the waters there as we do in Tennessee. We purchase our fishing licenses and abide by all rules and regulations. We have an issue with the Bowfishing rules. We like to bowfish because it is a good way to clean the rivers of the unwanted fish that are in the bodies of water (ex. Silver Carp, BigHead Carp, Buffalo, and Common Carp). These species of carp will in five years, leave nothing else in the water but their own kind while the Bass and all other species suffer. We like to bass fish durring the day and bowfish at night. We would really like for some rule changes to happen and be able to Bowfish all of the public waters at night to help regulate the population. The carp population is out of control where I live now and TWRA has to use tax payer funding to call in crews with large nets to control the population of these intrusive fish. When the nets clear the waters they take many game fish also, NOT GOOD. On page 11, Section M, "bowfishing equipment" is crossed out and needs to be reinstated. If not Bowfishing will be considered ILLEGAL on all rivers day and night. On page 11, Section P, Line 2, "Between sunrise and sunset" - This needs to be removed and no restrictions of this sort should be placed on the sport of bowfishing. I know this is only one voice, but please take this plea into consideration, and we could only hope that there are more people that have noticed this "Petition". Sincerely, Brett J. Dennison Comment Received 12/6/2012 11:08:51 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name arthur c brown City rising sun County SWITZERLAND State in. E-Mail Address acbrown@orvcomm.com</p>

Comments I feel sorry for the CO's and the hunters themselves trying to keep up with the constance change in the deer seasons and type of legal weapon for each one. Pass a law to allow crossbows this archery season, now want to start archery two weeks early but dis-allow crossbows for those two weeks. Special season for traditional ML only, even though I can already use it all during firearm season if I so desire. Yes, I own one and I don't need a "special" season. Put the brakes on guys, go back to managing the deer herd and not trying to please the special interest groups. All I see is fussing between the deer hunter's anymore. In my opinion, this whole mess started with the OBR and is only getting worse each season. Good luck!!!

Comment Received 12/6/2012 11:46:23 PM

Commenter Name Jason Stone
City Granger **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address jstone@dlz.com

Comments Regarding the Early Archery Season, I support the start date of September 15 for typical archery equipment. I don't object to an October 1 start date for crossbow users.

I would not be in support of any later date for the use of crossbows. There is no reason to dicriminate against crossbow users.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 10:32:14 AM

Commenter Name Kelly Williams
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN
E-Mail Address kelly.williams@cassidytruley.com

Comments I am NOT in favor of limiting a season for just vertical bow's as I feel it takes away the fair hunting opportunities for those elderly, handicapped and youth that are unable to pull back a vertical bow. This rule will damage, if not reverse, the positives that have come from the adoption of the crossbow during all archery seasons. I personally have purchased a crossbow for my 9 year old son this season and he spent a couple weekends with me in the woods. That opportunity to shoot his first deer would not have been possible if this rule was in place today. Again, I am strongly against this rule.

Thanks for taking our comments and providing hunting to EVERYONE, not just those who are strong and/or capable enough to pull back a vertical bow.

Sincerely,

Kelly Williams

Comment Received 12/7/2012 10:37:05 AM

Commenter Name Dave Willoughby
City Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** IN
E-Mail Address dwilloughby@southernroofinginc.com

Comments I am in favor of the additional archery deer season, primitive muzzleloader season and extension of the rabbit season. I think these seasons will give additional hunting days to the die hard hunters without hurting the resource or other hunters.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 10:39:17 AM

Commenter Name Scott Schwing
City Rising Sun **County** OHIO **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address schwings@embarqmail.com

Comments Absolutely NO to the verticle bow hunting starting in Sept. This is nothing but retaliation for approving crossbows. Verticle bow hunters want to keep crossbows out of "their" season so they can get there buck. Nothing more. Crossbow hunter should be included in this season, not just verticle bows.

NO to the late muzzleloader season as well, either include all types of muzzleloaders or nothing.

I dont understand why you would consider "specialized" season for just certain types of weapons. A bow and a crossbow are the same. Muzzleloaders be capable of being loaded only from the muzzle. Leave it at that.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 10:41:37 AM

Commenter Name Jerry Rowland
City Batersville **County** RIPLEY **State** in
E-Mail Address hunt2r@gmail.com

Comments I oppose the early exclusive Archery season. The deer season is long enough the way it is and I do not believe we should be micromanaging our seasons and exclude a certain weapon so as to appease a special interest. Bow season is bow season so anything that shoots an arrow or bolt should be allowed. The same with primitive muzzy season. Everybody should hunt with the weapon of their choice and not get into all of these special seasons. It is nonsense. Also for what it is worth back off the liberal doe permits our deer herd is depressed enough.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 10:43:26 AM

Commenter Name Dave Dennis
City Morgantown **County** MORGAN **State** IN
E-Mail Address ddennis@brehob.com

Comments I see no reason for the additional archery or muzzle loader deer seasons. I suggest that time be given to assess the changes implemented this year and then adjust as needed. The only change I would like to see made for next year is moving youth weekend back in to October.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 10:45:19 AM

Commenter Name John Simpson
City Newburg **County** Out of State **State** Pennsylvania
E-Mail Address jmikesimpson@embarqmail.com

Comments I feel that the exclusion of crossbow hunters in the proposed "early" archery season is biased and should not be adopted... why should sportsmen be afforded or denied the opportunity to hunt deer based upon the archery equipment they utilize? I have been a bowhunter for almost 50 years and found myself using a crossbow for the first time this year due to an injury...I greatly appreciated my Hoosier Home State allowing me the opportunity to hunt with a crossbow equally with other archers... I find the current proposal now going in the wrong direction... please take a look at the success of Ohio and other states who have been supportive of crossbow hunter opportunities... Indiana has received several good comments of praise on their support of crossbow hunters in both forums and published sporting articles... that will be negated by the proposal if it is adopted.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 10:49:47 AM

Commenter Name Jonathan Lewis
City Burlington **County** CARROLL **State** IN
E-Mail Address jonathan.lewis@delphi.com

Comments Bought a new crossbow and used it this year... I had great success! Shot a nice buck Nov. 8th. I've heard a rumor that the vertical bow enthusiasts want to make the first half of November a vertical bow-only season... it would be very disappointing if that happened.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 10:57:04 AM

Commenter Name Jake Lindauer
City Eckerty **County** CRAWFORD **State** IN
E-Mail Address wjakel@wildblue.net

Comments Any attempt to amend the request of a start date of the specialized "up right archery season" from November 1 to the beginning of the firearm season is not about a "heritage" season but a attempt to garner the basically pre-rut buck hunting for themselves. This is disgusting and these special interests have no place among our hunting seasons.

That basically says that their request is not about "heritage", a "season of their own" or even "good deer management". It is all about "buck hunting" for themselves. Please comment on that.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 10:57:15 AM

<p>Commenter Name MARK MCMICHAEL City CENTER POINT County CLAY State INDIANA Organization (optional) BUCKHILL FARMS E-Mail Address mpmcmichael@msn.com Comments I have seen the proposed rule changes. I feel that we need not fight among ourselves. Although, I like the idea of a late primitive muzzleloader season. I DO NOT like that crossbow are being cut out again. It is like the new rifle change for this year. I personally had a .358 built for the 2012 season but sold it 2 months before opening day. You make the rules and if a .35 caliber or larger is legal in a rifle as long as the case length isn't over 1.8". So everyone uses .35 Remington rifles and .45/70 with the case length cut down. SERIOUS SAFETY ISSUE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I got my buck this year with my 12 ga. shotgun with a foster slug. The same gun I have used since 1980. Comment Received 12/7/2012 10:57:50 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Vicki J. Sellers City Silver Lake County KOSCIUSKO State KOSCIUSKO E-Mail Address rogerandvic@live.com Comments I am against any amendment that rules against the use of crossbows in any archery season either now in existence or to be added with this amendment. I am also strongly against the addition of a primitive muzzle loader season in January. The season on whitetail deer is too long now and is having an adverse effect on out deer herd. Comment Received 12/7/2012 11:01:36 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Chad F. Sellers City Silver Lake County KOSCIUSKO State KOSCIUSKO E-Mail Address rogerandvic@live.com Comments I am against any amendment that rules against the use of crossbows in any archery season either now in existence or to be added with this amendment. I am also strongly against the addition of a primitive muzzle loader season in January. The season on whitetail deer is too long now and is having an adverse effect on out deer herd. Comment Received 12/7/2012 11:02:44 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Doug Felix City West Lafayette County TIPPECANOE State IN E-Mail Address dfelixsr@hotmail.com Comments Please leave the archery/primitive equipment and seasons as they currently are now!! There is no need to lengthen the season or make exceptions for the "vertical bow" users or primitive weapons users when they can already use those weapons anytime during the current seasons, especially since the inclusion of crossbow and extended season was just changed! Let the current seasons ride for at least five years to give the results a chance to actually show what they are affecting. I know in my little section of the county the deer sightings/numbers seem to be way down from just last year however as reported to Dean Zimmerman there may have been a minor EHD occurrence in my area too. We're used to hearing 40+ shots during the first day of gun season and this year we only heard maybe 7 or 8! That is an unscientific but very useful tool that tells me either there was more archery hunting done early or, more likely, the deer just weren't there in the numbers they have been. I've been deer hunting since 1981 and this seems to be the worse year ever for having hunt-able numbers of deer on my 80 acres of property. However the only way to know for sure exactly what the changes from last year have brought about to the deer harvest numbers is to leave the current rules as they for weapons and season until the numbers are in and tallied. Thank you, Doug Felix Comment Received 12/7/2012 11:05:47 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Aaron Curtis City Brownsburg County HENDRICKS State IN E-Mail Address acurtis@capstonebenefits.com Comments To whom it may concern: Respectfully, I submit to you the following: Begining the archery season on September 15th is a fine idea. However, limiting the hunting to vertical bows only for 9/15-10/1 is not a good idea. First and foremost it descriminates against cross bow hunters. The addition of the crossbow this year was a very good thing as it appears to have recruited new hunters and prolonged the ability to hunt for older hunters. Why would you want to exclude those two important classes of hunters by not allowing crossbows during the early archery season. Furthermore, the warmer weather during September would be attractive to those same people, in particular older hunters and women (at least those that I know). I also think that the proposed special muzzleloader season is a good idea but it should not be limited to only "traditional or primitive" muzzloaders. Again, why are you segregating hunters based on the style of a particular type of weapon? If you feel it necessary for game management purposes to place restrictions on muzzleloaders during this late season simply require only open sights and full bore size projectiles. This seems to get you to the same place without eliminating a large portion of the hunters who already own muzzleloaders. I see no gain from restricting the ignition method (cap/flintlock vs 209 primer) or where that ignition occurs (sidelock vs inline) Finally, these two changes smack of small groups of hunters trying to grab as season to themselves. Why should vertical bow hunters get an extra two weeks when they can also hunt the entire rest of the season as well? Likewise, why should traditional muzzleloader hunters get a seperate/additional season all to themselves when they can also hunt during the regular muzzleloader and firearms season as well. It seems that we should be doing more to breakdown the barriers between hunters not building more barriers and reasons for hunters to fuss with one another. If the weapon restrictions are a method to limit the harvest of deer, control that by limiting the bag limits not the weapons. If it is because special interest groups are putting up a fuss, remember that the DNR represents ALL hunters not just a few. I will close with noting that I do not currently own a crossbow and don't see me purchasing one anytime in the next few years. However, I do own a traditional style muzzleloader along with a modern inline muzzleloader. I believe that I am being perfectly objective in my observations. Thanks, Aaron Curtis. Comment Received 12/7/2012 11:06:38 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dakotah Shepherd City Warsaw County KOSCIUSKO State IN - Indiana E-Mail Address kodashep@gmail.com Comments I am firmly against the changes limiting the new earlier archery season to verticle bows only, if it is good enough for them then it is good enough for cross bowers. No on the extended primitive muzzle loader season. There is way too much pressure on our deer herd as it is. Comment Received 12/7/2012 11:08:05 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jeremy Loehmer City Greensburg County DECATUR State IN E-Mail Address jeremiah.loehmer@gmail.com Comments I personally think that the "vertical bow" only and "primitive only" seasons are a ridiculous concept devised and pushed by a very small minority of hunters in our state. It is a device to make hunting more exclusive for a few. They have every right as the law stands RIGHT NOW to hunt with the vertical bows or primitive muzzleloaders. Why make additional "exclusive" seasons? Also, it seems the idea of bumping the "vertical only" season either to the chunk of season before the youth hunt or (I've heard) to the two weeks before firearms is a poorly disguised attempt to allow a "vocal minority" of bow only folks to get a shot at "their bucks" before others. These proposals seem an attempt to pacify a small group of greedy hunters who don't like sharing.</p>

<p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 11:10:16 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Adam Lohr City Boonville County WARRICK State Indiana E-Mail Address Adam15@mail.com Comments The new proposed early archery dates and not necessary. Neither is any archery season that excludes crossbows that we're made legal this year. THIS WOULD BE A STEP BACKWARDS!! Even if the vertical bow crowd asks to change their season to Nov 1 to the start of gun season it is not right. No one group should have the woods to themselves. Please keep in mind the I am a diehard bowhunter but I also have a young daughter that loves to shoot her bow but is unable to shoot a legal bow yet. Because of this she started using a crossbow and on Nov 14 of this year she killed a big 11pt</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 11:24:31 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Clarence (Woody) Williams City Newburgh County WARRICK State Indiana Organization (optional) Hunt-Indiana.com E-Mail Address asats@wowway.com Comments Hunter Opportunity...</p> <p>I have always been for as much hunter opportunity as long as it does not negatively affect the wildlife resource.</p> <p>I fully support any group wanting a season of their own to pursue the game with the hunting tool of their choice – as long as they do not displace another hunter group out of any portion their own season.</p> <p>With that said - I support the early vertical archery season as presently proposed. Personally, I would like to see an earlier start date than September 15th. A start of the first Saturday in September would give the vertical bowhunters the opportunity to take a prized "velvet buck". Kentucky has had such a season for a number of years and it seems to be well liked by the Kentucky bowhunters.</p> <p>I also support the late primitive muzzleloader season for the same reason – more hunter opportunity. I do appreciate that the DNR listened and made a couple important changes from the original proposal - namely allowing the black powder substitutes as black powder is hard to find anymore and the addition of conicals as legal bullets.</p> <p>Thank you.....</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 11:30:39 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name James Street City New Albany County FLOYD State Indiana E-Mail Address jjas3933@aol.com Comments Why do we have to continually try to change the deer seasons? The new rules just went into effect this season. Why not let them stand for 5 years to see how they are working?</p> <p>This earlier archery season is unnecessary, puts more pressure on the herd and interferes with the youth season.</p> <p>The primitive muzzleloader season is also unnecessary. These weapons can be used in the firearms season, the muzzleloader season and the late antlerless season.</p> <p>Again I ask...when is enough, enough?</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 11:47:38 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Jeff T. Valovich City Chesterton County PORTER State In E-Mail Address jtv2485@gmail.com Comments Can you handle the truth ?? Just how much hunting pressure can our deer herd take ?? Another damn "Gun" season, plus another extension of Archery ?? I am a bowhunter first and foremost and still think this isnt needed.....I liked it better when Deer archery opened in mid Oct. ... Deer numbers are DOWN here in Porter Co.....Hear me, they are DOWN !! way down.....there is way to many bonus tags being issued for Porter Co.....1 person can take 16 deer !! 16 !! Why ? Why ? Our herd in this county can not handle this pressure, we dont have endless woods and habitat up here....Cut back on the Bonus tags next season...there is no reason they should be more than 2 !! Heck, I even think that is to many Heck, if you guys want to kill off the deer, just open it up to any caliber rifle and go all year long...it seem's that is what it is coming to....I am very displeased with the way the DNR is now handling our deer season's... CUT BACK ON BONUS TAGS in Porter Countyplease !!</p> <p>Thank You.....</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 11:50:57 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Robert Rudisill City Boonville County WARRICK State IN E-Mail Address rudy@directv.net Comments Sirs, I received an email from Hunting Indiana that stated there was a group trying to allow only long bows and compound bows until November 1st. Please do not allow this to happen. My grandson can now hunt with me from October 1st until January. If you would change the date for crossbow season to start it would limit our time together in the outdoors. The change you made to allow crossbows in a giant step forward to introducing younger and older hunters to our sport. Keep the season as it is.</p> <p>Thank you, Robert Rudisill</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 12:05:34 PM</p> <p>Commenter Name Rod DeRoo City Decatur County ADAMS State IN E-Mail Address rldzeppelin@hotmail.com Comments We do not need another bow season. Leave things alone.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 12:17:43 PM</p> <p>Commenter Name Larry Jensen City Kendallville County NOBLE State IN E-Mail Address larryjensen1@mchsi.com Comments I feel that crossbows should be included in the same regulations as recurve, long & compound bows.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 12:22:21 PM</p> <p>Commenter Name Danny East City Martinsville County MORGAN State Indiana E-Mail Address shooter700@comcast.net Comments Allow cross bows in all archery seasons or trash the proposals.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 12:31:05 PM</p> <p>Commenter Name John Christopher City Indianapolis County MARION State In E-Mail Address antiwheeze@excite.com Comments I support the Sept 15 archery season with the inclusion of the crossbow. As a compromise, crossbow usage for persons less than 16 and grater than 50 years, during this timeframe would be palatable.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 12:41:34 PM</p>
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<p>Commenter Name Jason Heaton City Kokomo County HOWARD State Indiana Organization (optional) none E-Mail Address tinysbowstrings@comcast.net Comments Allow crossbow to start with regular early archery not 2 weeks later. I believe the state is doing way to much with hunting in Indiana.</p> <p>Drop the indefinite one buck rule and allow hunters to choose whether they harvest more than one buck. The way it used to be one in archery and one in firearm seasons.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 12:58:28 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Aaron Martin City Indianapolis County MARION State Indiana E-Mail Address hoosiercheetah@gmail.com Comments I want to comment specifically on the proposed changes to the archery season, and the proposed addition of the primitive muzzle loader season.</p> <p>I believe that seasons and bag limits for deer should be based on population management, not on a few hunters' equipment preferences.</p> <p>If we need to extend the early archery season to Sept. 15 to help control the deer population, then by all means we should do that. But why limit the extension to vertical bows? If we need to kill more deer, allowing crossbow hunters more hunting days will help.</p> <p>If we need an additional week or two for muzzle-loaders in the later season, then extend it out. But again, limiting the equipment doesn't make sense, if your goal is to decrease the population.</p> <p>If hunters want to use "heritage" or "primitive" weapons, they already have the ability to do so during the established archery and muzzle-loader seasons. We do not need special seasons tailored to what a few people believe is the "right" way to hunt.</p> <p>If I decide that it's only fair to hunt deer bare-handed, and that using any kind of weapon is "cheating" can I get a bare-handed hunting season starting in June?</p> <p>I understand the need for a limited firearms season. Archery hunters kill fewer deer, and giving archers more time in the woods helps control the herd, limiting shotguns and muzzle-loaders prevents over-hunting.</p> <p>That's all fine. Those rules are established based on the needs of the deer population and the woods they inhabit. But these new proposals are not written in that spirit. They are a thinly-veiled attempt for a few people to try to impose their preferences on the rest of us.</p> <p>In my personal opinion, it's petty, childish, and totally unnecessary. I am wholeheartedly opposed to these proposed changes.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 1:03:00 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name David Grannan City Cumberland County HANCOCK State Indiana E-Mail Address dwgrannan@goldenrule.com Comments I see no need to not allow a crossbow in the archery season. It is still a bow and has many of the same limitations as any other bow. It may load differently, and shoot adifferently but it is still an archery weapon.</p> <p>Secondly, I am curious why a hunter shooting a primitive muzzleloader should be given a special season. I do not agree with the primitive shooter having any special consideration. Their weapon falls within a season already identified for that specific weapon. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 1:08:15 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jason McClain City SPENCERVILLE County DEKALB State INDIANA E-Mail Address SPORTCOVE@GMAIL.COM Comments I do not support a opening up a earlier archery season starting on sept 15th state wide, further more I do not support a primitive muzzloader season, if you want to add to muzzloader then let all muzzloaders hunt together...</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 1:10:35 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Rodney Rudd City Rochester County FULTON State IN E-Mail Address rrudd@townofargos.com Comments I am for the early sept 15th archery season..with no Crossbows.</p> <p>I am 100% in favor of our current crossbow law that allows you to hunt with a crossbow on Oct 1.</p> <p>We are giving out way too many doe tags. Does are few and far between.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 1:21:42 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dale Sides City Madison County JEFFERSON State In E-Mail Address jamessides@seidata.com Comments If a early Archery season is needed Do NOT exclude any now legal weapon Cross Bows Or compound Bows all this will do is further separate the ranks of archery users I know it would be for more recreational use and have nothing to do with herd reduction in that case let all enjoy or leave it as it is which I prefer and on the late primitive we have that choice of weapon now in muzzle loading and late firearm the further separation of the mzl hunters is not needed either, leave it alone also Crossbows in early archery went off without a hitch I believe and the problems perceived did not occur please do not give in to the elitist,s wishes by giving in to them and there demands on their weapon choice</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 1:28:24 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Bryan Bond City Shelbyville County SHELBY State Indiana E-Mail Address bryanbond1@comcast.net Comments I would to make my feelings known about the proposed primitive muzzleloader season and earlier archery season start.</p> <p>I DO NOT support either one of these. We already have a primitive muzzleloader season that currently runs for 32 days so why do we need additional days for. Our herd is already stressed enough due to the recent drought and EHD outbreak so we don't need this.</p> <p>As for the earlier start to the archery season. As mentioned above, our herd is stressed enough already with our season structure and do to this year's drought and EHD outbreak, this is not warranted. I know there are few on NRC that were upset with the new rules and the fact that they have to share the woods with hunters using crossbows, well you know what? THAT'S TOUGH!!!! The deer herd does not belong to them, they belong to EVERYONE....</p> <p>I'm tired of hearing about special interest groups complaining about who should be in the woods first and always worried about someone else shooting "their deer". I have never seen such nonsense and whining over an animal before... No wonder the hunting community is it's own worst enemy. It's time we let our wildlife biologist due their jobs and tell the special interest groups to take a hike and to stop its current assault on our herd and trying to setup the seasons just to satisfy their purely selfish motives. Lets just let the current rules go for a few years and see how it pans out and make adjustment accordingly if need be... Thank you!</p> <p>Comment Received 12/7/2012 1:41:15 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Phil Mize City Nashville County BROWN State Indiana</p>

E-Mail Address mizepd@hotmail.com

Comments Why is another attempt at Primitive Firearms Season necessary?? We had one once before that turned into anything goes Muzzle loading!! With the recent passing of the unnecessary "Special Antlerless Season", if this latest proposal goes forward, we will now have 52 days of hunting with some kind of gun in Indiana! 52 Days!!! This is unbelievable mismanagement of our deer herd. This kind of nonsense is going to eventually make the hunting of deer in Indiana as we have known it, a thing of the past!!

If the bodies that govern the states resources are going to be so liberal with the killing of deer, then we should at least make the depredation permits a thing of the past as well. Most of us would like to see some deer as we hunt instead of spending countless hours in a stand and not seeing a single deer (which has become more common lately).

On top of the over hunting of our deer herd, the state does not have enough Conservation Officers out in field to keep the illegal hunting activities in check. I personally heard more gun fire in our bow season than I have ever heard in the past and I can assure you that the time frames these guns were going off were not in pursuit of Squirrel!! So how can you legally manage a Primitive Firearms Season when the law can not even keep gun hunters from hunting in bow season??? Guys are going to keep pulling out their in line ML's and just continue on shooting and we are not going to have enough CO's out there to monitor the situation. Unbelievable!!

I wish I could get the rest of the hunting community involved with letter writing and phone calling. Not very many hunters I talk to agree with this new opportunity or with the way the state is managing the deer resources. But most are too lazy or too busy to voice their concern and bad decisions are made by a few self serving hunter groups!!

One day we will all wake up and wonder what happened to our deer opportunities. We need not look any further than the NCR and DNR when that day comes and the special interest groups that play politics with our game!!

Phil Mize

Comment Received 12/7/2012 2:06:48 PM

Commenter Name Steven J Neher

City Huntertown **County** ALLEN **State** IN

E-Mail Address sneher@peoplepc.com

Comments I am opposed to the Exclusion of crossbows from the early opening date of archery. I see no big difference between the compound bow and the crossbow. I support the new primitive traditional muzzle loading season. There is a significant difference between modern inline muzzle loading rifles and traditional rifles.

I question the need for orange on blinds on PRIVATE ground, but I have no problem with orange when hunting public areas. I find it odd that a blind requires MORE orange than a hunter is required to wear.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 2:26:54 PM

Commenter Name Tony Volikas

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** IN

E-Mail Address avolikas243@aol.com

Comments I am glad the DNR is seeking to limit X bow usage. There's nothing wrong with working towards a goal and too many IMHO just want to take the easier way. Sure we need to grow our ranks, but only with good sporting folks.

Catering to the immediate gratification culture of today won't be good for us down the road.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 2:33:27 PM

Commenter Name David DeWyse

City Goshen **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ddewyse@aol.com

Comments Please don't exclude crossbow hunters from the early season that is being proposed for bow hunting that would start in September. Seems that to exclude the people that own crossbows is only putting up additional barriers between the groups. I don't think that traditional bow hunters have any more right to be the first ones in the woods than a crossbow hunter should have. Either make this inclusive of all or don't adopt an earlier season at all. Thanks,

Comment Received 12/7/2012 3:01:03 PM

Commenter Name Mike Adkins

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address michaeladkins@yahoo.com

Comments Please don't make any changes to these rules. We still need to find out the results from last years changes. In my opinion, this may take several years. Again, please do not make any changes.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 3:25:16 PM

Commenter Name mike clabaugh

City andrews **County** HUNTINGTON **State** in

E-Mail Address mclabaugh@sbcglobal.net

Comments I strongly support the primitive muzzle loader season but Id like to see scopes with zero magnification added. Older guys who cant see open sights well enough to hunt will be unable to participate.

I strongly oppose the early archery only season that excludes crossbows. Crossbows are archery equipment and shouldn't be excluded. Archery hunters now have 4 months to kill a deer and to add 2 weeks and exclude other hunters is self centered and detrimental to hunting.

I also understand the IBA is trying to lobby the DNR to exclude crossbows from Nov 1 - start of gun season. Do you the DNR really want to go down this road again? I strongly oppose any exclusions of crossbows in any already established archery season now in place.

You the DNR should cut your ties with a couple of self centered hunting organizations that want to control Indiana seasons and exclude other hunters. This is no different than what PITA wants and tries to do. Hunting should be for all not just a few elitist.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 3:33:17 PM

Commenter Name Andrew Snider

City Westfield **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jaeger545@comcast.net

Comments I feel like we do not need to add an earlier archery season or a later primitive muzzleloader. We have enough seasons and regulations. We actually need to cut down on our antlerless permits.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 3:51:30 PM

Commenter Name Ray Cormier

City Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** IN.

E-Mail Address moray2@comcast.net

Comments If the goal of the DNR is to reduce the deer numbers why would you exclude crossbows from the proposed early archery season? This is all about vertical bow hunters trying to keep xbows out of what they consider thier season! It is about ANTLER WORSHIP and nothing more! It is ANTI- HUNTING mentality. Crossbows have been a great tool to recruit new hunters and give aging hunters more opportunity to harvest deer. Next we will see them trying to keep xbows out of the pre-rut and rut so they can have all the bucks to themselves. The crossbow is a BOW and should be included in any archery season.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 4:32:08 PM

Commenter Name Jack Corpuz

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address jc9195757@yahoo.com

Comments I still think a 9 iron should be adequate to "take" a mute swan.

Comment Received 12/7/2012 4:38:24 PM

Commenter Name James E. Kelly jr

<p>City Rochester County FULTON State Indiana E-Mail Address mandyjim@hotmail.com Comments I think that the seasons should be left as they are until there has been a chance to see how the new changes that were just added affect the herd. i also do not agree with keeping crossbows out of the early season. Comment Received 12/7/2012 5:01:48 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Chad Murphy City Columbus County BARTHOLOMEW State IN E-Mail Address cmurf70@gmail.com Comments It is my opinion, and many I know, that the state has been too liberal with the doe deer bag limits. I am in favor of the proposed late primitive muzzle loader season but not in favor of the September bow season. Fawns will suffer when their mother is killed further decimating our already thin deer herd. I believe by not allowing more than one buck and allowing overly abundant doe tags you have "programmed" the majority of deer hunters to kill everything that walks by them without out thinking of the herd damage they are doing. Leave the season dates as they are, cut the doe permits, and bring back the second buck buck before its too late. Comment Received 12/7/2012 5:34:24 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Nathan Stenftenagel City Jasper County DUBOIS State Indiana E-Mail Address nstenftenagel@hotmail.com Comments I oppose starting bow season for any weapon prior to October 1. Also, I oppose any amendment that would remove crossbows from October or November. Comment Received 12/7/2012 5:36:47 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Keith Clark City Patriot County SWITZERLAND State IN E-Mail Address kcdc123@embarqmail.com Comments I felt like you all did a pretty good job with the most sweeping changes to deer rules that I can recall in 2012. That being said, don't get rule and regulation happy! For example what you propose for early archery is not smart. Leave x bows in to draw and retain hunters. This helps the sport, herd, economy, etc. Listen to the general deer hunting public before you act would be my best advise for you. Surely you are smart enough to accomplish your goal and suite the majority and maintain or even enhance deer hunting tradition in Indiana. Comment Received 12/7/2012 8:27:00 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Tim Nussbaum City Warsaw County KOSCIUSKO State IN E-Mail Address gpjudge@gmail.com Comments Please give the Indiana Deer Hunters what they want. A shorter gun season out of the rut!! We are tired of these "season and weapon" extensions that get us NO WHERE!! Also, Remove Brian Pointer and Pat Early from the NRC which are the two purposes of getting Prop 1.0 derailed when they had SOUND and PROPER tactics and proposals in place designed by a committee that understood deer management.....and had the IDNR and Chad Stewarts approval. The need for removal of these two members will lessen the chances this type of stunt can happen again. Also.....keep in mind that hundreds of people that visit Huntingindiana.proboards.com are getting organized misinformation on how to handcuff the IDNR in doing what they want to do. These types of websites just FLOOD the feedback process with agendas that DO NOT reflect what the majority of deer hunters want. Proper feedback needs to be random sample feedback opportunity that is MAILED to our homes.....not gathered on some internet site that gets flooded with "AGENDA WANTS" by those that simply know how to create and organize "web based chaos". I have never been more dissappointed in my 30 years of hunting and having lack of confidence that the IDNR is using proper feedback methods more than ever in this state than I am now.....and those #'s are growing RAPIDLY!! There is time to fix this mess.....I suggest take a look at what has happened/methods/NRC personel in the last 2 years that has accelerated this to CHAOS status in our Deer Hunting ranks. Comment Received 12/7/2012 8:43:45 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jon Medjeski City Brownsburg County HENDRICKS State Indiana E-Mail Address j.medjeski@gmail.com Comments Having the archery season open on the 15th sounds great! However i foresee a possible issue arising. One of the main advantages to hunting the urban zone is to get a two week head start on the rest of the state. I believe that if the urban zone was to come in the same time as the regular season, hunters like myself would be discouraged to hunt in the urban zone, therefore decreasing the likely hood of harvesting an urban zone deer. Comment Received 12/7/2012 9:24:20 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name John Griswold City Fairbanks County SULLIVAN State Indiana E-Mail Address sjgriz4@aol.com Comments Do not add an earlier archery season, reduce the seasons and quit adding to them. The deer heard has substantially decreased with this year being the worst. Over the past deer season I have heard so many stories of no deer being seen out in the hunting woods all across Indiana and through out the mid west. The gun season we have currently is way to long and needs to be shortened by 15 days at the min. Archery season needs to come in around the 15th of Oct not Sep. I like the idea of an early prim muzzleloader hunt but lets make it the first weekend of Oct. when using these older guns it would be a lot easier instead of using them in the dead of winter. It is not about how many lic, we can sell as a state but what condition we can make the deer heard and also have some to leave to the next generation. Let's shorten the seasons what we have now, let the heard size build back up to wear it was from years past and not let some insurance groups tell us and persuade the law makers that we need to kill more deer to cut down on the vehicle collisions, if we keep on this track that we currently on then deer heard will decimated. Please start making changes to insure that future generations have something to enjoy and deer left to hunt. Comment Received 12/7/2012 9:50:36 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Ed Dooley City Valparaiso County PORTER State Indiana E-Mail Address dooleyem@comcast.net Comments I am 59 years old and have been an avid bow hunter for many years. If I had to choose between bow hunting and firearms hunting, I would definitely choose bow hunting, specifically deer. As I get older, I am having shoulder issues that are causing me to seriously consider converting from my compound bow to a crossbow. So when the state allowed crossbows during all of archery season, I started researching crossbows and I am close to purchasing one. I am disappointed that you are considering taking away days that I would be able to hunt with a crossbow. Please, do not reduce the crossbow season, especially during the best time of the hunting season to be in the woods. Sincerely, Ed Dooley Comment Received 12/7/2012 9:59:39 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mark Mahurin City Bloomington County MONROE State Indiana E-Mail Address markmahurin@hotmail.com Comments I would like to say having a "Special Season" with the exclusion is a mistake. I think this drives a wedge between hunters. The way I'm reading this reminds me on the Youth Deer season when it first started and how you could only harvest does. It was WRONG from the get go, and this will be the same way!! My own opinion is All or Nothing!!!!!! We can not let new laws be made by a "Select Few" and there own hidden motives. I have seen a new interest in archery this year by older friends that have gotten back into the sport, plus the interest in younger youth, and female hunter. So please lets make this All or Nothing. And as far as more gun hunting.....I think we have way more then we need now without adding more in January.</p>
<p>Thank you Mark Mahurin Bloomington, IN Comment Received 12/7/2012 10:37:42 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Chuck Hamer</p>

City Oakland **County** PIKE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address crhhamer22@msn.com

Comments I have to state that I am against the early proposed archery season unless it is restricted to long bows or recurve bow (primitive archery equipment) only. I feel season length is already long enough with close to three months already. I feel the deer population has declined in Pike and the surrounding counties where I live. Far to many antlerless permits are available and with the outbreak of EHD we had in 06 plus this years outbreak, deer numbers are way down. Pike County has had the antlerless permits lowered which has helped but the surrounding counties Of Gibson and Warrick are still at 8 which need lowered before the 2013 season starts.

As far as the primitive muzzle loader season, I am neutral on this new proposed rule. I really don't feel it is needed, but I really think it will have little effect on the herd as most hunters will be done filling tags when this season opens. If this season is approved I would support and hope the bag limits will be set to one doe per hunter, or if they still have not filled their one buck tag it should be legal to use in this season.

I would actually like to see the IDNR let the new proposed rules that went into affect this year be unmolested for at least a five year period. All the rules and regulation, different type license required to hunt deer in our state is very confusing.

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion on my states deer hunting rules.

Chuck Hamer
 Oakland City, IN 47660

Comment Received 12/8/2012 12:26:49 AM

Commenter Name Jeffrey Davies
City Osgood **County** RIPLEY **State** IN
E-Mail Address jpfab1@gmail.com

Comments I wish to comment regarding the proposed rule changes creating a early start to Archery season and a traditional muzzleloader season.

Regarding the early opening to bow season:

Currently the Archery season opens Oct 1st during the early periods of the current season I observe fawns still nursing off of does and bucks barely out of velvet. The tempratures are too warm to take deer for meat and an early opening would agravate each of these issues. Secondly regarding the Archery season early opening. Restricting crossbows from participation I believe is to join the crossbow oposition. If the state is concerned with deer reduction excluding the crossbow which is a more humane method of taking a deer I believe it defetes that goal.

A muzzleloader season already exists. To create a traditional muzzleloader season only takes people out of the woods and does not complement the goal of taking more deer out of them.

Honestly these two proposals cater to a few, the crosbow haters which I do not understand. and the tiny group of traditional Muzzleloader hunters. Pleaes do not pass laws to take hunters out of the woods. It is getting to the point already that deer season is all over the place. The current seasons are reasonable and plenty of time to hunt deer with a season for everyone.

Thank you for taking the time to look at this.

Comment Received 12/8/2012 1:42:15 AM

Commenter Name Alan Czyzewski
City Avon **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address almoczyz@sbcglobal.net

Comments Please leave seasons as is for a number of years, at least 5, to determine what if any effect the recent changes have had. Changing the rules too often does not allow their effect to be determined. The quality literature in Business makes this , not changing too much too often, a major point. If you can not determine the effect how do you know what to change.

Comment Received 12/8/2012 6:51:33 AM

Commenter Name Terry Sanders
City Elkhart **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address tersuesar@aol.com

Comments I want to thank you for including the crossbow in the early bow season. It was nice to finally see deer and score a buck with a weapon that had only seen cold, deer less days!

There is speculation that this might change. I hope that you will consider not to change the crossbow season.

Sincerely,
 Terry Sanders

Comment Received 12/8/2012 8:30:23 AM

Commenter Name Trevor Harmon
City North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** IN
E-Mail Address tb_harmon@hotmail.com

Comments I think there are other issues that need to be addressed rather then changing deer seasons all the time.

If archery season starts September 15th then it should include crossbows. As far as the primitive muzzle loader season, what's the purpose?

I say lets leave the seasons the way they are because they are working just fine.

The only thing I would like to see is recognition for donating deer to feed the hungry. I would like the state to put a list together and post it every year of the hunters who donated.

Comment Received 12/8/2012 8:39:10 AM

Commenter Name Bernie Kitten
City Carmel **County** HAMILTON **State** indiana
Organization (optional) NA

E-Mail Address bernard.kitten@sbcglobal.net

Comments I'm pretty disappointed with the DNR. Adding yet another extension to the hunting season (this time to archery) is crazy. All of the hunting seasons are too long already. I also hunt in IL and the shotgun season is two weekends for Fri-Sunday or 6 days. Here it is 21 days straight, plus a late season hunt. Bow season is already 120 days. Frankly I don't start bow-hunting until late October as it's too hot. It seems the DNR's only goal is to shrink the deer population statewide and increase revenues. Well I have had enough of that. I will be significantly cutting back on the number of licenses I purchase and deer shot on my land. I can't control what the state does, but I'm done with the lack of responsibility or concern displayed by the DNR and you are done getting my support or further funds. Seems the current leadership cares more about car insurance complaints from the occasional deer that is hit on state roads as their habitat is always shrinking. To a person that I have talked to, they share my concerns. It's time for new leadership at the DNR that actually cares about having a population of deer to hunt for future generations.

Bernie Kitten

Comment Received 12/8/2012 10:50:51 AM

Commenter Name Perry J. Schneeberg
City Sun Prairie **County** Out of State **State** WI
E-Mail Address Perry@schneep.com

Comments I hunt your great state and I believe Deer hunting with a crosbow should be allowed during all deer seasons.

Comment Received 12/8/2012 12:29:44 PM

Commenter Name Jim McIntyre
City Greensburg **County** DECATUR **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address MR2DmDucks@yahoo.com

Comments I see no reason to separate crossbows from archery season, Indiana has been locked in a fight against crossbows for entirely too long. Now it seems that certain groups that DO NOT represent the majority of Bow Hunters in Indiana as they claim are seeking to give themselves an exclusive hunting privilage by requesting a special

season exemption.
The additional muzzleloader season would be a great plan except for the restrictions as written, inline muzzleloaders have been used for for hunderds of years (underhammers) and not all inline muzzleloaders are of the new hammerless design . I understand the increase in opportunity to harvest deer I DO NOT however understand the States idea of hindering that opportunity by restricting the type of firearm being used any more than current regulations already allow .

Comment Received 12/8/2012 12:54:25 PM

Commenter Name Joe Cole

City Millersburg **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jlc01e3@embarqmail.com

Comments The proposed rule change for the early archery should be open to all people who will harvest the animal with crossbow or bow. I have hunted the woods of Indiana for 20 years and up until this year with vertical archery equipment and changing to crossbow because of shoulder issues. Do not impose undo rules on the patrons of Indiana who love to be in the woods with nature and their kids by restricting some . My son and I had our best hunting season to date using the crossbow and found it very enjoyable . The reason for opening an early season for deer with archery equipment should not be open to only a select group but open to all that want the oppurtunity to hunt with a bow whether vertical or crossbow, and to the greater good of getting people and kids of this great state in the woods to enjoy its natural beauty . Give your taxpayers the oppurtunity to enjoy nature not just a select group. Also, on this topic I have heard the same group who has proposed this rule change is also pushing to eliminate crossbow use from November 1- thru the opening of firearm? If you allow this kind of non- hunting agenda to occur you will lose the trust of many Indiana sportsman. This type of rule would take out sportsmanship and get people out of the woods instead of getting people in the woods ,and here again give a select group a better chance to harvest a buck during the rut. This rule would establish an unfair advantage to a certain group and put hunters like myself in a position of not being able to hunt (because of shoulder problems) during one of the best times of the year to be in the deer woods. This is anti-hunting agenda when we as the people of Indaina and the governing body there-in should be promoting this activity. Please do not let this happen to this great sport and to deer hunting.

Comment Received 12/8/2012 3:51:47 PM

Commenter Name Mark Darr

City Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address markdarr@comcast.net

Comments Please stop adding more seasons and more specific weapons to the deer seasons! Things are confusing enough for new and some experienced hunters and there are enough deer dying already! We can't stop the idiots out there that shoot every deer in sight that they have a tag for and then have no intention of doing anything with them. When is enough enough. Some park reduction hunts should have been cancelled this year after ehd was discovered to have killed many deer in some areas. From what I have read, this is an obvious example that shows it's not about sustaining a deer herd. It's about destroying one and making every dollar you can along the way.

Comment Received 12/8/2012 4:18:22 PM

Commenter Name Robert Sebastian

City Greensburg **County** DECATUR **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rameyrough@aol.com

Comments I am all for extended seasons if the resources will support it.But in my opinion a muzzleloader is a muzzleloader and crossbows and longbows and compound bows are all archery,there is no reason I or anyone else should have to purchase or acquire other equipment to enjoy an extended season.In my opinion the traditional bowhunters and muzzleloading hunters just want time in the woods when there is not many hunters around.Seems to me that they need to hone there skills and become better hunters and quit worrying about themselves and if we need extended seasons extend them for everybody.Because in regular muzzleloading and archery season if they choose to use traditional equipment then they have the opportunity to do so.Just dont cut the rest of us out because we choose to use different equipment.

Comment Received 12/8/2012 8:56:27 PM

Commenter Name Roger R Rothhaar

City Reelsville **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ryanrothhaar@yahoo.com

Comments Concerning the proposed bow only portion of the combined bow/crossbow season I am adamantly in support of a bow only season, either early season, or pre-gunseason. With the new definition that allowed crossbows to be used within the entire archery season this year the quality of the hunting experience for dedicated bowhunters has suffered significantly. The influx of crossbow toting opportunists has been a detriment, in my area, to the quality of the early bowseason. These early archery seasons were fought for, and won, many years ago by hunters willing to accept the challenge of a primitive weapon, and handicap themselves beyond what the "run of the mill" hunter was willing to accept. Now, with the IDNR allowing crossbows to be utilized in the early season that heritage and challenge has been destroyed. Some bow only early season would at least allow some semblance of the original purpose of early archery seasons to remain. Please don't continue to destroy the joy of archery hunting by kowtowing to the demands of the crossbow hunters (and SELLERS) and squander our hunting heritage for the all-mighty dollar. As a long time resident, and lifetime hunting license holder in Indiana, and a hunter that spends over 100 days a year in the woods, I am dismayed at the deer management in the state of Indiana.

Comment Received 12/8/2012 10:33:20 PM

Commenter Name Josh Schmitt

City Crawfordsville **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address whitey99@yahoo.com

Comments I am trying to decipher why extra time and hunting season are warranted. What is the purpose? Is it to offer further opportunity (I'd argue that 3+ months is more than enough) Is it to continue to destroy our current deer herd? I have no scientific proof, but deer sightings, gun shots, etc. have continued to decline in my hunting area in Dubois Co. I realize this may not be the case in every area of Indiana, but it seems a bit much too me. I'll be very anxious to see the harvest numbers for 2012, if the numbers are down again this year, will you agree that a downward trend has started?

Unfortunately, this is completely about money. Most concerned hunters have witnessed this with regard to killing pens that still operate in Indiana, the potential of CWD that may have been introduced to the state due to a "farm" in SE Indiana. Its a shame we have to debate added season when we should be debating other important hunting issues.

In short, please keep the seasons where they are at!!

Comment Received 12/9/2012 12:09:35 AM

Commenter Name Corey LoCascio

City Schererville **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address corey_262001@yahoo.com

Comments The addition of an early archery season (sept15) for long bow hunters only is unfair to crossbow shooters. The DNR cries that we have too many deer, so why not include crossbow hunters to actually try to get the deer numbers into a better grasp? If the DNR actually cared about the deer population and not what groups "donate" what to them, we may actually have a solid deer program like all the surrounding states.

Indian has been left behind in the deer management of the midwest states. Indiana has broken up the season so much with the early archery, late archery, firearm, late firearm, muzzle loader seasons. You have a week here for this weapon a week there for this weapon. For what?? Why not keep it simple?

Comment Received 12/9/2012 12:10:30 AM

Commenter Name Dave Shively

City Claypool **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dsshively@frontier.com

Comments Section 4 item f,2 concerning traditional muzzleloader should include along with external side hammer, external UNDER HAMMER.

Comment Received 12/9/2012 7:26:08 AM

Commenter Name Dustin Waters

City Knox **County** STARKE **State** IN

E-Mail Address trdtnlbwhntr@gmail.com

Comments In regards to the constant rule changes to the deer season structure and weaponry:

A.) The crossbow was original put in place as a management tool to reduce the deer herd. However we continue to add seasons and dilute the hunting experience with more weapons over longer periods of time. Given the current EHD outbreak that has plagued the entire state and how it has eradicated deer numbers throughout the state, why are we trying to increase the harvest. There is absolutely no way a serious deer hunter would agree with the notion that we are not in a declining period of hunting in Indiana.

B.) With the given push to raise money by slaughtering our deer herd, the changes need to be put in place to protect the "leftovers" of this massacre.

1.) non-resident tags need to be restricted, and the number sold needs to be limited to a draw only situation. If the state is managing for money and not herd health, the way to improve the value of any sought after product is to limit the availability of that product. If supply is less than demand the value increases. There is no reason why we cant

<p>increase the value of a non-resident tag by 400% and decrease the number allotted by 75% and still maintain the same revenue stream. 2.) If this is put in place we need to move the gun season to at least create a quality herd to hunt. There are people leaving the heritage of hunting because the rule changes have created a beast that can not be tamed. (people are leasing up ground and not killing every doe they see. Leaving access to quality ground as an expensive yearly venture. People are leaving hunting because the expense does not justify the product. The deer herd is in shambles and people no longer want to pay to play the game that has been created) C.) People have the choice to hunt with a primitive weapon if they want, the only reason you are planning to introduce that season is try and sell another tag and create a new revenue stream. There is a constant change to suck money from the pockets of the residents while allowing the non-residents to get the deals to come into our state.</p> <p>At some point the DNR and NRC needs to realize that they can no longer manage our herd for revenue rather for herd management. The people that you are continually asking to do your bidding are the same people that are standing up and saying enough is enough. Eventually you will reach the point of diminishing returns and we will no longer do hat you ask, the time is rapidly approaching. The fact remains that there is absolutely no way to force the hand of the people that own the land and buy the tags. You need to manage to the median of management standards and hunter population wants and concerns. The herd belongs to all of us not just the members in gov't making these rule changes.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/9/2012 1:15:36 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name David A. Hicks City Springville County LAWRENCE State Indiana E-Mail Address selectfirem4@yahoo.com Comments I support a September 15-30 archery season that excludes crossbows. In fact, I would even support a starting date of September 1 instead of September 15.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/9/2012 2:22:02 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name william c buhmann City valparaiso County PORTER State indiana E-Mail Address william.buhmann@frontier.com Comments I am Against tha early vertical bow season that excludes the use of a crossbow.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/9/2012 3:03:35 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Rob Miller City Monticello County WHITE State Indiana E-Mail Address millertime6272@comcast.net Comments Greetings, I believe some great changes were made last year. #1 being the addition of the crossbow for the entire archery season. It has allowed both of my children to spend much more time in the deer woods with me. In 312 IAC 9-3-3, I don't see crossbows listed as a type of equipment for the beginning of that season. September 15th for a start date would be ok. But, I would need to see crossbow included. #2 It sounds like a special interest group is behind adding a Primitive Muzzle-loader Season. If someone wants to hunt with a primitive muzzle-loader, why can't they do that during the regular muzzy season or during firearms? I don't agree with adding this season for a select few. If you add a special muzzy season then what follows? Maybe, a special Atlatl Spear Season. There's probably a few people in the state that own and could effectively use one. I am fortunate enough to have permission to hunt in several counties throughout this great state. Since the One Buck Rule came into effect, I have seen more bucks on every property. However, for the last three years, I have seen a drastic decline in the doe population. Which, I understand was one of the goals. For the insurance companies this is great. But, for myself and many hunters that I have spoken with, the numbers are seeming rather low. I feed my family with venison, that we process ourselves. We try to take 3-4 deer a year to sustain to the next season. If doe quotas stay as high as they are now, I'm afraid we won't continue to keep the freezer full. I say we give the changes from last year 4 - 5 years and see where we are at then. Thank you for your time, effort, and consideration.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/9/2012 8:33:06 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Brian Richmond City Webster County WAYNE State IN E-Mail Address beansbeat10@aol.com Comments I am writing in regards to the early archery and late primitive loader season.</p> <p>1. Early archery - I am not in favor of anymore hunting time for archery. I understand people wanting more opportunity and there are those who whine about special groups getting preferences. I am an avid archery hunter and I feel 3 months plus is plenty of time/opportunity to be in the field hunting deer. I also like the fact that the youth season is the FIRST season open. I fear that some "opportunity" for the youth may be hurt by an early season. I vote to leave it as is. We all have opportunity enough to both hunt and the DNR has enough bows/firearms for the herd management it needs.</p> <p>2. Late primitive muzzle loader season. I also have/will hunt with a side hammer loader at times. Again, there is ALREADY a muzzleloader season of 15 days where hunters can use a modern or primitive firearm. There is also a late doe season, if a particular county is legal, to use a preference of firearm. I am NOT in favor of another season. Again a person can use a primitive firearm for a possible 30+ days already. There is no need for another "preference" season.</p> <p>I guess for the deer season I believe enough already on more opportunity for a number of reasons:</p> <p>1. In my area deer sighting are down considerably. I know that is not the case in some areas, but here over the past few years I have seen less and less.</p> <p>2. There will always be people wanting more.. more.. more... I have already heard talk of "now lets get bow to 1st Saturday like KY has. We have enough "Opportunity" in Indiana for everyone from firearm, vertical bow, to xbow and collectively it reduces the deer herd enough.</p> <p>Brian Richmond Comment Received 12/9/2012 8:44:41 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Andrew Johnstone City Martinsville County MORGAN State IN E-Mail Address jstones@scican.net Comments I feel the crossbow season should be maximized - NOT limited.</p> <p>The benefits of increasing the number of hunters afield (continuing our hoosier hunting culture), allowing those physically challenged and unable to use a regular bow to hunt, and encouraging gun hunters or non-hunters to START bow hunting with a less intimidating crossbow - are all advantages to consider.</p> <p>Regular compound bow hunters are no more 'interfered with' by crossbow hunters during 'their' season than recurve bow hunters are by having compound bow hunters afield.</p> <p>I personally know several people who used to only gun-hunt (and one who had not hunted at all) who chose to hunt the 2012-2013 season purely because they could use a crossbow. None of the gun-hunters were experienced bow shooters, but wanted to use the crossbow to possibly transition to compound or even recurve bows later on if they had a positive experience. The non-hunter was a woman who was an experienced bow shooter but petite enough she was not comfortable with a draw-weight adequate for whitetail.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/9/2012 9:52:03 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dave Krieger City Warsaw County KOSCIUSKO State IN E-Mail Address dkrieger1@tampabay.rr.com Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3 Sec. 3. (b) Delete the use of a compound bow for hunting during the early archery season.</p> <p>312 IAC 9-3-3 Sec. 3 (5) Delete the use of hand-held releases for the early archery season.</p> <p>312 IAC 9-3-3 Sec. 3 (f) Primitive Muzzleloader season Delete the use of a caplock muzzleloader. A caplock muzzleloader is a not a primitive muzzleloader.</p> <p>312 IAC 9-3-4 Sec. 4 (H) Change to: The Kosciusko County urban deer zone includes all of Kosciusko County. This will help restore the control of deer hunting in Kosciusko County to the State of Indiana. The current city hunt does very little to control the deer herd within 2 miles of the city of Warsaw.</p>

<p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 12:00:59 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Ben Graber City Bunker Hill County MIAMI State Indiana E-Mail Address bgrab1@yahoo.com Comments Sirs: please keep seasons just as they are .The archery , crossbow and verticle, leave all rules as they were in 2012 season. thanks for all the good wook! Ben Graber</p>
<p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 3:20:10 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Alan Gregg City Anderson County MADISON State Indiana E-Mail Address a.gregg@comcast.net Comments I dont think we here in Indiana need a primitive muzzle loader only season. Keep everyone hunting!!!!</p>
<p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 3:48:03 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Dwight Scifres City Montezuma County PARKE State IN E-Mail Address dascife@sbcglobal.net Comments 1. The Deer Regs are getting more complex each year and need simplified. 2. Too many split seasons, and it is obvious there is favoritism slanted to bow hunters. 3. Legal gun calibers- way too complex, Legalize all centerfires. 4. Do not shorten gun season. 5. A muzzleloader season for just primitives is stupid and again splitting hairs on weapon use. 6. Move the opening day for gun season back to where it was in 2011. 7. The complexity of the seasons and regs is not a mark of good management, but of bureaucracy and a poor understanding of both law enforcement and those who are trying to comply with the law. Do a survey and you would find most hunters are confused as to what is legal equipment, when the seasons are etc. This reflects poorly on the rule makers at the IDNR.</p>
<p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 4:18:51 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Carl Baltes City LaGrange County LAGRANGE State Indiana Organization (optional) N/A E-Mail Address cjbates@msn.com Comments The new deer hunting rules this year is ludicrous. Indiana already has deer seasons which are too liberal, too long in length and allowing too many animals to be taken. I am barely seeing any deer as it is. Stop the madness, the DNR is killing the sport for our youth.</p>
<p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 5:18:17 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Josh Wilkinson City Lafayette County TIPPECANOE State Indiana E-Mail Address wilkinhunt@gmail.com Comments In the areas I hunted this year hunting was very tuff. I blame part of this on the many new crossbow hunters in the area. The extra pressure on the deer made my early bow season much different then the many successful prior years. Many of these first year crossbow hunters believe they can shoot 100 yards flinging arrows at every deer they see. I had three different hunters wound deer and track these wounded deer through my land spooking everything in the process. It seems we have the same profile of hunter in the woods during gun season for two months now. Now the true archery hunter can't enjoy any peaceful hunting thanks to the new crossbow rule. Also why do we have over four weeks of gun seasons? Firearms and muzzleloader season in ridiculously long. The state is really messing up here. I'd guess 50% of the gun hunters shouldn't be carrying a gun around the woods for two weeks during firearms season. They are dangerous and wound more deer, and really screw things up for the hunter that enjoys spending time in the woods. Not sure why we couldn't try the two separate three day firearms seasons. If the state really wants numbers down, two short firearms seasons in late November would give hunters plenty of time to harvest deer. These two seasons would be very popular and everybody would be in the woods for the three day blood bash then get out giving the deer rest again. The long gun seasons just is so hard on the deer and makes them go nocturnal quick. The state just gives to much time for the firearms season.</p>
<p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 5:32:10 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Anthony Oliver City Monrovia County MORGAN State IN E-Mail Address oliverinspectionsservices@yahoo.com Comments Please keep the crossbow season as it is. there is no reason to change it. the long bow hunters are trying to squeeze the crossbow out again of their season. So that they can have the atvantage of taking a trophy before anyone else is able to do so.</p>
<p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 6:05:54 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Scott E.Webster City Clinton County VERMILLION State Indiana E-Mail Address mrbuckfly1@yahoo.com Comments I am responding to the proposed early archery season that will begin on sept.15 of 2013.There is nothing traditional about archery in Indiana.The crossbow is merely a powderless gun and should not only be deleted from the new september 15 season but all archery seasons.Let the bowhunters be bowhunters and the gun hunters gun hunters.</p>
<p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 6:31:56 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Dennis Hanks City Tell City County PERRY State Indiana E-Mail Address dhanks2541@hotmail.com Comments With the deer regulations the only things I don't like is only giving the vertical bow a couple extra weeks. X bows should wait till Nov 1. Also the tradition muzzleloader season should be more than 7 days. Wait a week after archery goes out and them start it and let it run 2 weekends. On another note spring turkey season should start on a Saturday a week or more before it does. Maybe even make it an archery only weekend.</p>
<p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 6:32:02 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Dana Herman City Ashley County STEUBEN State IN E-Mail Address djhermdog@yahoo.com Comments We sure as hell don't need any additional deer seasons!!! What exactly are you college educated idiots wanting to do?? Totally eliminate the deer hurd? Also if someone wants top hunt with thier primitive bows and muzzel loaders, they can do so in the seasons already in place for archery and firearms!</p>
<p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 7:01:21 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Dave Shively City Claypool County KOSCIUSKO State Indiana E-Mail Address dsshively@frontier.com Comments In the proposed type of rifle for the primitive muzzleloader season only side hammer is mentioned. Several hunters in Kosciusko County have underhammers which have a percussion cap on the underside of the firearm. These underhammers and also side lock slap hammers should be included in the verbage of types of traditional firearms. Dave Shively</p>
<p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 7:51:31 AM</p> <p>Commenter Name Aaron Ault City Delphi County CARROLL State Indiana E-Mail Address aaron.ault@gmch.com</p>

Comments Hi. Has anyone considered doing something to improve the deer herd in addition to adding all these new seasons? These additional seasons will have very, very little impact on the herd, but liberal bag limits already imposed are taking their toll. I know a lot of Indiana hunters whom spend significant time in the woods, and across the board they are disappointed in the herd numbers. The farmers in my area are absolutely wiping their land clean of trees, fencerows, woodlots, low lying weedy areas, etc. Is there not a government program that can help preserve these areas? It makes me sick to see it all happening in front of our faces, and yet we offer no incentives to slow it down. I haven't seen a quail in 10 years. Maybe shift a little bit of your focus from wiping out the deer population to preserving what we still have. Thank you. Aaron

Comment Received 12/10/2012 7:54:52 AM

Commenter Name John Wade
City Taswell **County** CRAWFORD **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address j28wade@gmail.com
Comments Your proposed early archery season is crap! If the NRC feels that this early season is absolutely needed and should not include ALL archery, then make it primitive only. ALL ARCHERY being: long, recurve, compound, and crossbow. PRIMITIVE being: long or recurve only. Stick and string only, no cams, wheels or any mechanical devices. With the current designs of compound bows they are as effective as a crossbow. To keep separating the two is wrong.

Comment Received 12/10/2012 8:12:21 AM

Commenter Name Ryan Frauhiger
City Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Bowfishing
E-Mail Address stihlduck@yahoo.com
Comments Making sure that we are able to bowfish rivers and night, as well as day for the 2013 season and upcoming seasons.

Thanks

Comment Received 12/10/2012 8:40:53 AM

Commenter Name Jon Nolting
City Elizabethtown **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address jpnolting@gmail.com
Comments Regarding the proposed hunting / fishing rule changes:

- 1 - I feel there is no need to start a deer hunting season prior to October 1st; perios. However if it is started September 15th there is no reason or excuse not to allow crossbows in that time period. This is simply catering to vertical bow shooters who want to harvest a deer in velvet and don't want to share the woods.
- 2 - I do not feel it is necessary to have a "primitive" muzzleloader season in addition to all of the other seasons. If a hunter wishes to use a primitive weapon they can still use it in the firearms season or muzzleloader season. Adding another season will only confuse hunters and divide the sportsmen/women of Indiana even further.
- 3 - Finally, I believe the bobwhite quail population is meager at best. The daily bag limit on birds should be reduced back to 5 (or lower) as it was in the past.

Thanks for taking the time to read and consider the thoughts of folks who are concerned about their hunting heritage in Indiana.

Comment Received 12/10/2012 8:46:09 AM

Commenter Name Scott Chanley
City Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address scott.chanley@basf.com
Comments I am totally against expanding the Early archery season to September 15 and preventing the use of crossbows during this season. First, we do not need a longer deer season. The Indiana deer herd is in dire shape. Population numbers are at the lowest levels in many years. Bonus antlerless permits are too liberal. Plus, the extreme drought of 2012 and 2011 plus the epidemic of Blue tongue disease has wiped out deer numbers in many parts of the state. Indiana Deer biologists and members of the NRC have no idea what the current deer population is in Indiana. There have been no population estimates done in many years. Please listen to the many hunters who hopefully comment on these proposed rule changes. I hunt in 4 different areas of Indiana from Northeast to Southwest and the deer numbers are dangerously low in all areas. Plus the Buck to doe ratios are completely out of whack in the wrong direction. Trail cameras on my farms indicat there is a 4 buck to 1 doe ratio. This is the exact opposite of what a healthy deer hear should be. Please do not adopt the early archery and the late muzzleloader season. Also, Please, Please reduce the bonus antlerless permits by county. One more year of the status quo, and we won't have a deer population to hunt. Stop listening to the special interest insurance lobbyist and other lobbyists that say we have too many deer. It simply isnt true in rural areas. Do the studies to find out yourselves that the Indiana deer herd is is terrible, dangerously low levels. Thank you

Comment Received 12/10/2012 8:55:06 AM

Commenter Name David Overton
City Boonville **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address ddcovr@toast.net
Comments I think we should leave the deer hunting regulations as they are now. If we keep changing them how will we know what works and what doesn't. I also believe the hunting seasons are plenty long enough now. The herd in my opinion has been thinned enough.

Comment Received 12/10/2012 8:59:20 AM

Commenter Name Pam Rogers
City Mooresville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Pirogers@iupui.edu
Comments Look at your harvested deer numbers and coresponding dates, this should answer your delima. Why change the rules back- many people who could not hunt before but didn't qualify to get a handicap license (elderly and woman), enjoyed the extra Harvest time. I was able to hunt using my cross bow with my family for the first time. Kills are more lethal- less wounding and lost deer from tracking. Please keep the ruling as it is for 2012

Comment Received 12/10/2012 9:13:38 AM

Commenter Name Pam Rogers
City Mooresville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) None
E-Mail Address Pirogers@iupui.edu
Comments Look at your harvested deer numbers and coresponding dates, this should answer your delima. Why change the rules back- many people who could not hunt before but didn't qualify to get a handicap license (elderly and woman), enjoyed the extra Harvest time. I was able to hunt using my cross bow with my family for the first time. Kills are more lethal- less wounding and lost deer from tracking. Please keep the ruling as it is for 2012

Comment Received 12/10/2012 9:14:50 AM

Commenter Name Harold Downham
City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** IN.
E-Mail Address downhamstaxidermy@hotmail.com
Comments I as a bow,gun,black powder hunter,do not want to see the deer hunting season extended. We do not need a earlerly bow and later black powder season. I have seen first hand the stress already put on the deer herd has done. In over 40 years of wt hunting in Indiana this is the worst I have seen it. Adding more and extended time is not the answer.The way it is currently everyone enjoys a season bow,gun black powder. I ask you to leave the seasons as is before its to late. Thank you for your time.

Comment Received 12/10/2012 9:16:07 AM

Commenter Name Denny Howe
City TELL CITY **County** PERRY **State** in.
Organization (optional) RC & D FISH & WILDLIFE
E-Mail Address dwhowe@psci.net
Comments Leave the Deer season's as is , but let us use rifles the same caliber as the pistols packers .

THANK

Comment Received 12/10/2012 9:18:13 AM

Commenter Name Luke roberts

<p>City New Albany County FLOYD State Indiana E-Mail Address lroberts103@hotmail.com Comments I wish I could get someone in the state capital to leave things alone. We don't need a September deer season. Also I don't like the idea that some people want to get rid of crossbows as part of archery season don't like that either. The late muzzleloader season is a good idea but that is all we need. I wish for one year you would make a two buck season. Comment Received 12/10/2012 9:24:03 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name arthur c brown City rising sun County SWITZERLAND State Ind. Organization (optional) N/A E-Mail Address acbrown@orvcomm.com Comments Concerning the Sept 15 start date for archery, I stated earlier that I could accept it if crossbows were included. After some thought I do not believe it should be approved due to the overlap with the small game season (squirrel). There is enough, some, conflict now between small and large game hunters on public ground. Also seems like a possible safety concern, mainly on public hunting ground as well as private land. Camo. deer hunters in trees and squirrel hunters on the ground shooting into trees. I'm an archery hunter as well as a squirrel hunter and see no need for additional archery time. I have more than 3 months now. Comment Received 12/10/2012 9:41:58 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Tim Foltz City Roann County MIAMI State Indiana E-Mail Address just1874@hotmail.com Comments I think we have enough time to hunt deer in this state and really do not need anymore seasons. If there is going to be a "vertical bow" only season make it primitive as well and use only longbows and recurves. No compounds! Comment Received 12/10/2012 9:44:57 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Brooks Langeloh City Columbia City County WHITLEY State IN E-Mail Address brooks@orizonrealestate.com Comments I would be in favor of separate seasons (bow/primitive MZ), but not by adding additional time to hunt. The Deer population is so low now that we are going to lose future hunters. I hunted 21 times in gun season last year and saw 0 deer 16 times. We (a group of 15 of us) hunt 5 different farms in Whitley, Noble, and Kosciusko. We have stopped harvesting does because we are not seeing any in bow or gun season. The population is less than the early 80's. Again, my concern is keeping the young hunters interested. A question I have is, at what point will the "reduction mode" be reversed. What is the key indicator that will trigger a change? Harvest numbers can not be a reliable indicator when you continually increase the # of days to hunt and the # of deer that can be taken. In my opinion, Whitley County never should have been raised to a 3 let alone to a 4 day county. According to our CO's, they agree, but apparently, people 100's of miles away know better than the people in the field daily. I am not happy with the direction we are heading and I believe it will affect the future hunters of Indiana. I am 51 years old, and remember what it was like in the late 70's and I'm telling you we are very close to those days. I agree that we did need a reduction, and I think we achieved that 2 years ago. I was against the shorter gun seasons, based on being "sold" as deer reduction. I would have supported the shorter seasons if it was sold as taking pressure off the bucks and I think a lot of hunters feel the same way I do. Again, my burning question is "When does the reduction mode stop?" Thanks, Brooks Comment Received 12/10/2012 9:45:44 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Kyle Trambaugh City Loogootee County MARTIN State IN E-Mail Address rocketrepaiguy@gmail.com Comments I don't think Indiana needs any additional deer hunting seasons. Comment Received 12/10/2012 9:53:00 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name greg eley City marion County GRANT State in E-Mail Address eleyhunt@gmail.com Comments I do not think either one of these changes are necessary until we have accurately assessed the impact of the crossbow and late antlerless season. I will say I was very happy to be able to hunt from November 1-17 with my crossbow, because of this change I feel we will see a significant increase in the # of deer harvested in early archery season. Comment Received 12/10/2012 10:23:59 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mark Fink City Pittsboro County HENDRICKS State Indiana E-Mail Address mfink@indy.rr.com Comments I want to comment specifically on two proposed changes. 1. The proposed change of the archery season to begin SEPT 15th. I DO NOT support this season change as it is currently written. I can support this change ONLY IF crossbows are allowed during that same time. Why is the crossbow being excluded from these first 15 days of the season?? The crossbow is no different in its killing abilities than a vertical bow. In fact I really believe that the crossbow is more difficult to hunt with than a compound bow. I would support a primitive archery season that allowed for the use of recurves and longbows only during that first 15 days. 2. I do support all of the other proposed changes as written. Comment Received 12/10/2012 10:34:12 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Derek Craig City Ashley County STEUBEN State Indiana E-Mail Address decraig2000@hotmail.com Comments I would just like to offer my thoughts on the proposed September 15 start date to the deer archery season and the added "primitive" muzzleloader season. Archery Proposal Thoughts As a die hard bow hunter, I am very much opposed to the earlier start date of September 15th. There is no need to move the start date forward. Our deer herd is being pressured enough with all of the recent changes in our season structures and liberal antlerless tags. I believe that this attempt at an earlier archery opener is nothing more than a push by adults wanting a first crack at antlered bucks who are often very easy to pattern in the month of September. Further this interferes with the very successful youth deer weekend. Primitive Muzzleloader Season Thoughts We already have some of the longest firearms seasons in the nation when you combine our regular firearms, muzzleloader, and now the antlerless seasons. Do we really need an additional season? Not in my opinion. There is ample time for every hunter to enjoy our hunting seasons and have opportunities to take whitetail deer in the method of their choosing. This proposed season is simply another attempt by a special interest group who wants their own private piece of the pie. It is unnecessary. Comment Received 12/10/2012 10:43:09 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name C.J. Cunningham City Syracuse County KOSCIUSKO State Indiana E-Mail Address cjcunningham00@gmail.com Comments I am in support of moving the beginning of the archery season into September. I would also support limiting this season to vertical archery equipment. In regards to the primitive ML season in January, I would also like the archery season extended with this time-frame as well. I see very little detriment to allowing bow-hunting to continue into mid-January.</p>

<p>Thank you</p> <p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 11:07:52 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Scott Arthur City Rosedale County VIGO State Indiana E-Mail Address snparthur60@aol.com Comments ANY archery season SHOULD INCLUDE crossbows, period! The primitive muzzleloader season sounds great, BUT should include ALL exposed hammer guns, not just side locks.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Scott Arthur</p> <p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 11:18:14 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Brian Parkinson City Mt. Vernon County POSEY State Indiana E-Mail Address brian.parkinson@att.net Comments I would like to see the changes and additions to all the seasons stop for a couple years to evaluate their impact. The inclusion of crossbows for all archery season was great. As I read the revised regs it looks as though they may be limited for part of the archery season. Also the antlerless harvest for each county needs to be CLOSELY evaluated before being included automatically in the additional seasons. Also, state properties should go to a draw system similar to the state parks or for portions of the season. As a property owner adjoining such properties there is a tremendous overcrowding issue that is causing safety issues not only on the state's property but its causing more and more issues on the adjoining private properties. It is nice to think all hunters obey the rules and regulations but in reality they don't. A simple draw to limit the amount of hunters per area per day would resolve the issue.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 11:57:27 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Tim Andrews City LaPorte County LAPORTE State Indiana E-Mail Address truth4914@frontier.com Comments In regards to new deer seasons,dates and weapons I would like to make the following comments. First off I for one am a little tired of the DNR changing any of the above on what seems be a yearly basis. It has almost gotten to the point that a person needs to seek the advise of their family attorney to understand these changes. I feel that for the past few years the DNR has been changing the weapons and dates to suit certain groups of hunters or private interest groups. We in Indiana have added seasons for just about every type of weapon known to man to harvest deer, whats next spears and blowguns? In addition to these weapons we have lengthened the deer season from start to finish and now it appears were still not satisfied. What upsets me the most about all these added changes is that so much time is being spent in the state office building making these changes that in my opinion the DNR is not aware of what is going on in the field, so if you will allow me to I will share some of my observations. I do all my deer hunting from my property in LaPorte county and over the past 12 years since I have purchased this land I have seen the deer herd dwindle to the point that except for the doe and yearling that live here which I promised my wife I would not shoot I have only seen one other deer this entire 2012 firearms season. We have hunted the deer herd to the point that the insurance industry should be happy but many of us concerned sportsman are not. My area for many years has been a high bonus doe area coupling that with the summer kill of 2-3 years ago I feel we are now in need of some rebuilding of this local population. It is my understanding that the DNR now wants to add additional dates to the Indiana deer seasons. At the rate we are killing off this herd soon the state can begin to have PUT AND TAKE deer hunting. In conclusion lets get out of the office and get into the field to take a good long hard look at the deer population in every area in the state before you start adding weapons,dates and additional bag limits. Besides if you were out in the field you wouldn't have time to answer every telephone call or e-mail from interest groups or private individuals like me.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 11:58:14 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Gary Oestreich City Valparaiso County PORTER State Indiana E-Mail Address gary.oestreich@frontier.com Comments NRC members, I am commenting in reference to the rule changes that have been preliminary passed concerning cross bows. First are we to expect the rules and regulations to change every 6 months. In porter county we already have a september season with the urban season. So is a crossbow not going to be legal in that season with this change? In my opinion there is no need to differentiate the vertical bow and the crossbow. I for one am quite tired of the nrc seeming to cater to certain groups that continue to influence the regulations for their own agenda. If its is legal to hunt with archery equipment that should include a crossbow or vertical bow period! I personally feel it is time to look at some new leadership and membership concerning the nrc. The home boy network this group is showing a track record for should not be tolerated. Spend some more time evaluating our herd please! Record harvests but no method of estimating the deer heard one of the few states that dont according to a 2012 article in field and stream magazine. Maybe you should put more effort in that direction instead of supporting the elitist archery groups. If you let these tactics start now how will you ever stop them. The rumor is this is just the start of their schemes to limit the use of the crossbow. Why must you think that indiana is so different compared to our neighboring states. Gary L Oestreich</p> <p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 12:05:49 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name jhines City Muncie County DELAWARE State Indiana E-Mail Address jhines669@gmail.com Comments I like the idea of the Sept 15 early bow season.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 12:13:20 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Matthew Miller City Bremen County MARSHALL State Indiana E-Mail Address mattmil@juno.com Comments i hunted archery for the first time this year in over 20 years and the reason is because of crossbows being legal. also my 13 year old son hunted during the archery season with a crossbow. we hunted together and had some great father and son time. i would be very disapointed if crossbows were not legal for the complete season like they were this year. i am absolutly oposed to any new rule that would limit the crossbows season and that would cause there to be a traditional archery season only in the pre-rut time frame. thanks</p> <p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 1:07:07 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Ryan Gick City Fort Wayne County ALLEN State Indiana E-Mail Address subzero350@frontier.com Comments I think the DNR should keep the existing hunting rules and dates as they exist today. The rules were just changed to allow for crossbows to be used during the ENTIRE archery season and a late antlerless gun season was added. How does the DNR know how these changes are going to affect the deer population when the results haven't even come in yet and why would they propose making new changes now before even knowing such results? I predict that the EHD problem has hit the deer population hard this year so annual harvest numbers might be down anyway so there really needs to be something like a 5 year wait-and-see period here to determine what (if any changes) need to be made to the EXISTING rules and dates.</p> <p>The second issue at hand is the push that has been made by several "vertical" bow hunters to change regulations to give themselves more rut opportunities than anyone else (including those wanting to use crossbows). I believe making such changes to accomidate this group would only hurt the sport. It would also have a negative impact on the DNR's goal of regulating the deer herd as well as generating income via license revenues. Please ignore these selfish activist groups and keep the current amount of equipment and date options open to all hunters.</p> <p>Again, please keep the current rules and regulations as they are and leave them be for a period of time to allow proper research to determine whether or not changes need to be made.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/10/2012 1:13:16 PM</p>

<p>Commenter Name David Bratcher City Marengo County CRAWFORD State Indiana E-Mail Address mordus67@aol.com Comments If the petition to have the crossbow season amended is true, I like some my friends who went out and bought crossbows. do not think it's fair to change for this to happen, i have burcitus in my right shoulder and have problems with a compound bow. A Doctor will give disibility for this so i can use a crossbow all season. Furthermore Muzzleloaders can be used during regular gun season but shotgun cannot be used during Muzzleloader season, so where is it fair that crossbow should be changed and Muzzleloader not be restricted to its own season Comment Received 12/10/2012 2:08:59 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Art Jones City Cloverdale County PUTNAM State Indiana E-Mail Address art@iendeavor.com Comments would like the crossbow to be considered in toal Archery season, Oct 1 thru Jan 6--I am 75 now and cant handle compound effectively, this would let me hunt earlier without cold weather kicking up the joint problems I have--thank you--Art Jones Comment Received 12/10/2012 3:33:16 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Charles West City Georgetown County FLOYD State Indiana E-Mail Address cmwest2006@insightbb.com Comments I think the addition of the crossbow for everyone to use the entire archery season was a terrific idea. Also we're looking forward to the late doe season. It'll be nice to bring out the .450 again to try and help the deer herd while filling our stomachs with tasty deer meat. I was very leery of the proposed changes prior to the season but feel substantially better about it now. I've had surgery to both shoulders and while still able to draw a conventional bow had trouble holding at full draw for long periods of time. Problem solved with my crossbow. I was considering giving up bow season until this rule change was implemented. Thanks. Mike West Comment Received 12/10/2012 6:36:16 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Scott Bradford City Aurora County OHIO State Indiana E-Mail Address Hoosiergrass75@gmail.com Comments I have no problem with vertical bow season starting Sept. 15. and crossbows not coming in until October 1. I do have a problem with any rule that would involve vertical bows only til gun season. Crossbows should be allowed in my opinion from Oct. 1 thru Jan. 6 or end of season. Just like the way it is now. Im all for adding seasons, I am in no way in favor of taking away something that already exists. Thank you, Scott Bradford Comment Received 12/10/2012 7:27:33 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Joe Koontz City fort wayne County ALLEN State Indiana E-Mail Address thekoontzs@comcast.net Comments I dont agree changinge archery and crossbow seasons your loose new hunters and old or handicapped we need all the outdors persons that we can get to keep our heritage and sport alive . Comment Received 12/10/2012 7:38:25 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Anthony Rothgerber City Tell City County PERRY State IN E-Mail Address anthonyr@psci.net Comments I would like to thank you for including crossbows during the archery season. I am not handicapped but getting to the age where archery was becoming difficult and the crossbow helped me to be able to hunt a few more years. Comment Received 12/10/2012 7:47:21 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Robert Porter City Celestine County DUBOIS State Indiana E-Mail Address raporter@netsurfusa.net Comments I would like to see our deer hunting regulations left alone for a few years and not changed just to apease a few organizations. Comment Received 12/10/2012 8:17:36 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Robin Sichting City Martinsville County MORGAN State Indiana E-Mail Address lightfootslim@att.net Comments Keep crossbow hunting, and adding another deer season is a great idea ! Comment Received 12/10/2012 9:46:53 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Zach Hicks City North Vernon County JENNINGS State Indiana E-Mail Address zhicks@iupui.edu Comments I do not believe that either of the new proposals will benefit the deer herd here in Indiana. By extending the season in september it seems like all you all are wanting is kill deer kill deer kill deer. It will not be a benefit to our herd whatsoever. And the same thing goes for the primitive season. Just kill them. Another thing that will happen with this late primitive season is an extreme amount of wounded deer. Unresponsible hunters trying to push the limits of their great grandpas ole smoke pole. Sounds like to me you all just want everyone to kill them all. I for one will not partake. I will stay with my own QDM plan. Comment Received 12/10/2012 11:08:30 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Tyler Staggs City Noblesville County HAMILTON State Indiana E-Mail Address tyler_staggs@hotmail.com Comments In regard to the hunter orange requirement for ground blinds I support the rule, but I think that it needs to be ammended to include a height from the ground. Many items sold as "ground blinds" also have to option of being mounted on a stand that elevates them. As such, I think the rule would be a bit clearer if it stated that the orange is required if the blind is less than 4 feet off the ground. I find the definition of a "primitive muzzleloader" to be quite problematic. A brief bit of research has shown me that in-line firing muzzleloading arms have been around since at least the mid-1800's. Many of the newly produced muzzleloaders that "have a traditional, external side-hammer design" are as modern as many inlines. To add a seperate season based solely on the look of a firearm is laughable. Season should be based on management objectives and what's best for the resource, not what some, and in my opinon for this rule change, the minority find fashionable. That said, I do applaud the change to the earlier start for archery deer season. The restrictions on the number of deer of either sex that can be taken should allow for proper management of the herd size. The added time in which to take those does not change the number that can be taken. So, thank you for considering to allow archery season to start on September 15. If I am reading the proposed rule change correctly, it appears that bows (vertical) and crossbows have different season dates. This is not needed. As stated above, the type of take is not as important for healty deer herds. That is controlled by the number of deer, per sex, to be taken. Without changing that I feel that a difference in archery season equipment dates is confusing and unneeded. I support a change of the rule to read that crossbows should be legal anytime that other types of archery equipment are legal. Similarly, I thank you for considering lengthing the rabbit season. There are very few rabbit hunters anymore and in my opinion, hunting is way down on the list of impacts to rabbits in this state. Giving those that enjoy this hunting is welcomed and should have very little impact on the populations as a whole. I think the hunter orange requirement for squirrel hunting should be the same as that required for archery deer hunting. It should only be required when it coincides with firearms</p>

deer season. I see no reason for the apparently arbitrary start of Nov. 1 for hunter orange for squirrel hunters.

Comment Received 12/11/2012 7:38:46 AM

Commenter Name Phil Mize

City Nashville **County** BROWN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mizepd@hotmail.com

Comments I have already sent one letter that was laced with anger. I now submit another that has allowed me time to think about the PFA proposal with a level headed approach.

Many hunters are angry about the latest adaptation of the "Special Antlerless Season" this year and the now proposed and unneeded "Primitive Firearms Season" that the NCR is considering. It seems the NCR is over reacting to the cries of the Insurance Companies, Farmers and "Special Interest Groups" that more deer need to be harvested.

This anger from hunters has little voice as most hunters just give up and go on feeling that their voice is not heard. An exception to this was the recent failed proposal to shorten the gun season a couple of years back. In this case the "state" came to us in our cities and towns and the voice was heard. Probably a compromise should have been dealt as that proposal had actually had some merit and truth behind its plan in my opinion!

Yes, the state provides links for comments but when looking at the proposals, most hunters are overwhelmed by the language and the sheer volume of information. The information is important but most in the hunting community will not take time to sort through it all. I would wager that if you came to our cities and towns with the PFA Proposal and asked for feedback on the PFA and this years "Special Antlerless Season" that most of hunters would give you a resounding thumbs down on the proposals!!

You do realize that a large amount of hunters use the modern muzzleloader rifles now in the gun seasons due to their accuracy!! So in reality, we are now giving the modern ML rifle community 32 hunting days to use that weapon to harvest deer!!!! I use one myself during that time period!!

Rather than propose yet another PFA season in January, why not make the last week of the regular ML season PFA only??? Why? This allows the fair weather hunter to use their PFA in a season that is more probable in attaining your goal of harvesting more deer. The thought of taking a Doe during the proposed time period that may carry one, two or possibly three young is not desirable to an ethical hunter that is trying to manage the deer herd. A deer herd that most of us feel is stressed with the liberal rules that are now in place in comparison with our neighboring states!! Now it is true these same Does may already carry their fawns in the current ML season but they are not as far along. I don't know any hunter that enjoys field dressing a deer and seeing the unborn fetus of a fawn come spilling out of the womb of a deer. A lot of us express "I just killed 2 deer, or 3 deer and so on"!!

Plus, we would not be adding any more hunting days to our firearms season that I believe is now numbering 46 days.

I know you will read this and say "well if the fair weather hunters won't go out during the proposed "PFA season and deer number harvests will be low, what's the big deal"? The big deal is we (the state) keep adding and adding hunts for special interest groups when we already have enough hunting days!! What's next if we keep going at this rate? Here are some examples as a satire:

How about a 2nd buck for any hunter over 62!!!
Let's give youth a full month to gun hunt before bow season begins!!!
Handicap hunters can use spotlights to help them harvest a deer!!!!
Let's legalize all forms of guns anywhere in the state!!!
Women hunters need their own season so they don't compete with men!!

It can go on and on!! Silly, I know, but that seems to be how we are managing our deer!!

Why not let the current rules ride for 3-5 more years and see its impact before adding another season for a special interest group??

Please give the PFA additional thought gentlemen (and ladies if any)! It's just too much in most of our opinions an unnecessary!!

Thank You!

Comment Received 12/11/2012 8:38:47 AM

Commenter Name Tim McGuire

City Crown Point **County** LAKE **State** IN

E-Mail Address mcguire60@hotmail.com

Comments I disagree with two of the deer hunting rule changes! The vertical bow season and the addition of the primitive muzzleloader season. The existing seasons give all hunters the option of using their vertical bow and primitive muzzleloader now, don't believe they need their own season. With the bonus quotas set for counties there is plenty of deer allowed to take for hunters.

Comment Received 12/11/2012 10:24:23 AM

Commenter Name Mike Hartigan

City Vincennes **County** KNOX **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address oneshot58@hotmail.com

Comments Please keep X bows in during all of archery season.

Thank You.

Comment Received 12/11/2012 10:29:56 AM

Commenter Name Adam Lohr

City Boonville, In **County** WARRICK **State** In

E-Mail Address Adaml15@mail.com

Comments In regards to the Scales Lake amendment- I Do Not believe the lake should be taken off the slot limit. I live a mile from the lake and would think I spend more time on the lake bass fishing than anyone else I've seen there. Personally I've kept every short bass I could from there over the last several years in hopes of helping the lake and we like to eat fish. If the slot limit was removed it would take away nearly all chance of people using the bass in the lake. There just simply are NOT enough >14 bass to make it worth while. If anything, I would like to see all size limits lifted on scales and lynnville park for a few years to thin out the high # of short fish.

Comment Received 12/11/2012 2:36:50 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Harris

City New Albany **County** FLOYD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Jeffreykh@insightbb.com

Comments I think the crossbow season should run up until firearm season like this year. Don't agree with the vertical bow change, but I'm ok with the rest of the changes thanks
Jeff

Comment Received 12/11/2012 3:09:37 PM

Commenter Name gary graf

City sellersburg **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address gary.graf@louisville.edu

Comments We have just made a round of changes of adding crossbow during the regular archery season. I was for this new rule.Lets wait and see what effect this has on hunting before we change anything else. We have plenty of hunting chances in Indiana and don;t need to add another season so early especially the extreme heat we still see at that time of year.If it does change it should be open to all archery devices including crossbow

Comment Received 12/11/2012 3:30:44 PM

Commenter Name William LaVigne

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address woodnfish@msn.com

Comments I strongly encourage the adaption of rule 312 IAC 9-7-12 which raises the size limit on Walleyes at Wall Lake to 16" and reduces the daily bag limit to 2 fish. This will protect these smaller fish for a longer period of time. Wall lake is quite small and many people fish for Walleyes. The size of bluegills in the lake has gotten larger with the walleye stocking. Additional protection it seems will allow these predators to help thin out more small gills. The DNR has done a tremendous job with the walleye stocking program and needs to get maximum bang for it's buck. Thank you for making Indiana walleyes happen. I would strongly support a minimum state wide size limit of 16". Thank you,
Bill

Comment Received 12/11/2012 5:13:55 PM

Commenter Name Gary LaRue
City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address glarue2@frontier.com

Comments I do support the change of Walleye size and possession on Wall Lake. You do not expect to catch 20 Walleyes a day on Wall Lake so to keep 2 nice 16 inch fish is a plus. It should also help with the Blue Gill size and stop poeple keeping fish that are just barely 14 inches. Great idea.

Comment Received 12/11/2012 5:32:08 PM

Commenter Name Eric Pettit
City North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address ericpettit30@hotmail.com

Comments I like the idea of early bow, but I'd like to see it at the beginging of Sep. like KY so that there is more opportunity at a full velvet buck instead of half and half. I have no problem with the late muzzle loader season.

I do wish it were a LOT less complicated on all seasons, i.e. measuring my case length during firearms to make sure I'm legal, knowing when I can hunt with cross bow or not. It seems to me it would make it easier on everyone, (yourselves included) to simplify things. Make centerfire rifles over a certain caliber legal so that I don't have to carry a set of callipers with me to make sure I'm legal, or buy special made guns to just get me under. I think it is way more complicated than it needs to be! If people are scared of "High Powered" rifles then call them "Center Fire" because all studys that are done on the subject prove that accidental hunting tragedys are NOT caused by the length of the bullets case, rather the unfortunate actions taken by a hunter.

Thank You for your time, I understand your job is not an easy one, and I don't envy you, I only ask you to please keep it simple.

Eric Pettit

Comment Received 12/11/2012 7:37:45 PM

Commenter Name Terry Walker
City Marysville **County** CLARK **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address prepper@netzero.com

Comments On the early archery season for no crossbows from Sept. 15 to Oct. 1, i have no problem with that but only at that time, not amended later to be the last 2 weeks before the firearms season begins which would exclude all us older guys and new crossbow owners from the two best weeks of the entire deer season.

Comment Received 12/11/2012 11:06:46 PM

Commenter Name Danny S. Smith
City Bluffton **County** WELLS **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dasmith1947@att.net

Comments Leave the current seasons, rules, and regulations the same for 5 years to evaluate their effect.

Comment Received 12/12/2012 10:34:50 AM

Commenter Name J. Darrick Brinkerhoff
City Garrett **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Brinkerhoff Law Office
E-Mail Address brinkerhoff8@gmail.com

Comments This is ridiculous. Longer seasons? Extra muzzleloader season? This may sound enticing from a revenue perspective but you are dealing with a limited resource. If you allow more hunters to hunt lengthened seasons with firearms, there won't be a herd left to make money on. There are people in Indiana that have hunted for many years and said that this year was down significantly in that they are seeing less and less deer. I don't trust the numbers estimated by the DNR or the NRC. I trust my fellow hunter to tell me what the herd is like. Plus, with the EHD this year the numbers are down even more. WHY OH WHY ARE THESE CHANGES BEING PROPOSED? Insurance lobbies? Non-hunter complaints? I don't get it...

Please do not adopt these proposals and in fact, please shorten the gun season. Take the gun season out of the rut.

If things continue like they have been (this years extended doe only (yeah right...) muzzleloader season) there will be no herd to hunt and NO REVENUE to the State. There is a balance and you are flirting with upsetting that in a harmful and irreparable way.

Comment Received 12/12/2012 12:12:51 PM

Commenter Name donald imel
City madison **County** JEFFERSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address donaldimel@yahoo.com

Comments I do not own a crossbow, but I don't believe that there should be a bow season that excludes them. I also don't think that there needs to be a primitive muzzy season. There is plenty of opportunity for anyone to use any weapon that they want during the current season structure. I do believe that we need to wait before making any more changes so that the changes from the last season can be evaluated.

When is the youth season going to be if the seasons keep moving up? If there is going to be an early bow season it should be just primitive bows no compounds or crossbows. That will make the special interest group happy by excluding 70% of them as well.

Comment Received 12/12/2012 3:15:16 PM

Commenter Name Jason Brown
City Washington **County** DAVIESS **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address crktn21@yahoo.com

Comments We need no new changes to deer regulations. Enough is enough. I do not support the new proposals. We archers already have the longest season and don't need to alienate any of the newcomers that crossbows may have brought in. We also have no need for a primitive muzzleloading season.

Comment Received 12/12/2012 6:32:18 PM

Commenter Name clarence folden
City jamestown **County** BOONE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address biggdogind@yahoo.com

Comments The proposal of changing the vertical bows or crossbows to Nov. 1st to the start of firearm season is a great idea. Makes the people that are against crossbows get out and hunt before the crossbows hot the woods. There were alot of inexperienced hunters with crossbows this year. Alot of wounded deer and deer that were never found because of inexperienced hunters taking bad shots, or not waiting long enough before tracking. Thanks

Comment Received 12/13/2012 4:56:25 AM

Commenter Name Thomas Johnson/ Board Member
City Orland **County** LAGRANGE **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Wall Lake Fishermans Association
E-Mail Address Jeanneorland@aol.com

Comments Dear Sirs; This letter is sent to reaffirm the Wall Lake Fishermans Association's,which represents the Wall lake property owners, full support for the proposal to reduce the walleye bag limit to two fish and increase the size limit to 16 inches.We have supported this fish management approach since 2003 when it was initially discussed with your fisheries staff and most recently outlined in a 2007 Wall Lake Work Plan (Management Plan).

Comment Received 12/13/2012 12:27:22 PM

<p>Commenter Name Timothy James City Leesburg County KOSCIUSKO State IN E-Mail Address gpjudge@gmail.com Comments You can't be serious. Lengthening the season? Are you kidding me?? When will the IDNR and the NRC realize that we don't want gimmick proposals. WE WANT A SHORTER GUN SEASON OUT OF THE RUT!!! You want to keep in place the longest gun/muzzy season in the Midwest to chase a buck.....and wonder why people wont shoot does. It's due to the majority of those guys are using the 30 plus days to hunt that buck FIRST!!! Give them a short window to use that weapon to hunt bucks....and watch them shoot their does sooner, more immediately, and still have days to shoot does with other weapons vs just sitting home doing nothing while deer season is still in. You also will get hunters that have extra vacation time aloted towards deer season that will use this time to hunt does.....vs.....aloting ALL their vacation time to just hunt buck, and not have as much time left over to hunt does.</p> <p>Another concern I have is that the Current NRC leadership was quite manipulative with our IDNR when Prop 1.0 was being considered. As the IDNR reps in a meeting with Senator Mishler said...."Prop 1.0 was our first choice". The manipulation of the IDNR's First Choice by the NRC and those listening to "mob website voices" like those from Huntingindiana.proboards.com led by Woody Williams.....and not listening to the IDNR and those that understood what needed to be done as we saw in Prop 1.0.....it is clear that the current NRC leadership is taking and willingly leading hunters into the MOST DEVISIVE ERA we have ever seen under their current leadership. They are not listening to the IDNR.....they are INSTEAD navigating their OWN path which has thrown hunters and regs and the IDNR into the most DEVISIVE ERA I have ever seen. GET THE NRC LEADERSHIP IN ORDER.....and some of the problems you all are having to endure will go away.</p> <p>Thank you Comment Received 12/13/2012 1:10:13 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Herb Higgins City Greenwood County JOHNSON State IN Organization (optional) Indiana Bowhunter Association E-Mail Address IBATreasurer@hotmail.com Comments Indiana Bowhunter Association (IBA) responses to LSA Document #12: Proposed amendments to 312 IAC 9-2-15: The IBA supports safety initiatives & clarification of hunter orange on ground blinds. 9-3-2: The IBA appreciates endeavors of clarification to involve today's youths in all hunting activities. 9-3-3: The IBA appreciates efforts of clarification for archery equipment by adding the recurve bow. 9-3-4: The IBA supports the change of the season start date to September 15. 9-3-16: The IBA supports the change of the season start date to November 1, understanding that this is in efforts of ensuring animal proliferation. The IBA appreciates and supports all the other proposals that continue to promote the ethics of hunting and trapping. By implementing clear rules, the NRC and DNR promote a responsible & acceptable game management methodology that the non-hunting general public will continue to support. Comment Received 12/14/2012 9:52:01 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Herb Higgins City Greenwood County JOHNSON State IN E-Mail Address dizzy_higg@hotmail.com Comments Personal response to LSA Document #12: Proposed amendments to 312 IAC 9-3-4: I question the creation & extension of the primitive muzzleloader season beginning the first Monday in January and continuing for an additional six (6) days. As an avid archer, I would request that the archery deer season include the same wording around its ending date as that of the primitive muzzleloader season, allowing the inclusion of archery equipment during this hunting time. With the archery season ending the first Sunday in January, there will be times that the primitive muzzleloader season will be open and the archery season will be closed. I appreciate and support all the other proposals that continue to promote the ethics of hunting and trapping. Comment Received 12/14/2012 10:02:37 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Andrew Wickham City Westfield County HENDRICKS State Indiana E-Mail Address ahwathome@hotmail.com Comments Hello, the early bow season seems like yet another attempt to me for a small minority of vocal hunters to get their crack at the deer before all others. I have a bow too, but I don't deserve my own season due to a choice of hunting equipment.</p> <p>I would much rather extend the youth deer season to a full week with two weekends, or something like that. Comment Received 12/14/2012 5:18:49 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Mark David City Fort Wayne County ALLEN State Indiana E-Mail Address mnutttree@msn.com Comments If you could get the jokers off the NRC that helped derail Proposition 1.0, the IDNR and majority of the hunters might take these proposals serious. The majority of the deer hunters in our area want a shorter gun season that is out of the rut. We did not want crossbows, we did not want an increase in the size of PCR casings, we did want the NRC to listen to what the IDNR wanted in the first place which was Proposal 1.0 to manage our herd. The NRC lately has done nothing short of dividing hunters like we have never seen before. Heck, Brian Pointer of the NRC even demonstrated the day Prop 1.0 was going to be launched to only listen to Woody Williams (site administrator for Huntingindiana.proboards.com) from the crowd as he was against Prop 1.0, yet never allowed those from the attending crowd to voice support of it. Once again, meddling NRC leadership (like Brian Pointer) set the stage for "Mob Rule" via "Internet Gangs" that people like Woody Williams represents, but wants all to believe he and his "internet gang members" represent what the majority of deer hunters want.</p> <p>I think it is time to show Indiana hunters that the NRC has learned how NOT to listen to such "gang rule" internet sites like Woody Williams representsas they lay waste to our deer herd, and falsely represent the majority of what deer hunters want. Next time you need actual survey results that represent our majority, please do not use tools such as "internet feedback" that will be manipulated and loaded with comments orchestrated by websites such as Huntingindiana.proboards.com and their leadership. Send surveys to our homes, or some sort of tool that takes a random sample and cannot be manipulated. You will then see that the majority of our deer hunters are SICK of our current gun season structure, and want a shorter gun season that is out of the rut. Quit trying to give us such options as longer bow seasons or primitive muzzy seasons. That method just "segments" hunters against each other,, which the NRC appears to have great talent in these days.</p> <p>Summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Give us a shorter gun season out of the rut 2) Quit offering us seasons like you are taking feedback on as it only "segements" hunters against each other 3) Quit allowing feedback tools that lead to "organized mob" feedback as Huntingindiana.proboards.com demonstrates they can and will do 4) Address the problematic/manipulative/devisive NRC leadership that we currently have in place. They are not in place to DICTATE/MANIPULATE what the IDNR wants to do. <p>When you have IDNR Brass sitting in a Senators office saying they wanted Prop 1.0 , but that was somehow "taken" from them due to NRC and "mob internet" actions.....You got a problematic stinkin' mess to clean up. CLEAN IT UP NOW , WE ARE SICK OF IT!!!! Comment Received 12/15/2012 3:29:10 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Terry Keenan City Fort Wayne County ALLEN State in E-Mail Address twk8831@gmail.com Comments Whoa! The deer season is long enough, bag limits are too liberal. Deer season should be closed by Dec. 31st. If a guy wants to hunt with primitive weapons, that is his choice. Longbow, flintlock, recurve, whatever he chooses.....he doesn't need a separte season added on to the beginning or end. I have hunted archery only for the last fifteen years because I like the challenge. I use a bow throughout the entire season, it is my choice and I live with it. Stop trying to please everybody because you will never succeed. In my opinion, the more changes you guys make,the worse our deer hunting gets. You are going to take us back to 1970's deer herd numbers if you keep it up and then people will quit hunting because of poor success rates. Comment Received 12/16/2012 8:21:58 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Greg Yazel</p>

<p>City Greensburg County DECATUR State Indiana Organization (optional) N/A E-Mail Address greg.yazel@yahoo.com Comments We do not need additional days of firearm seasons. We do not need additional days of archery season. The deer herd is pressured enough already with 30 + days of firearms, plus the new antlerless season. If primitive muzzle loaders must have a season of their own, make it the last week of the current muzzle loader season. Primitive muzzle loaders was the whole intent of that season to begin with. Not the 200 yard+ inlines we have now. Enough is enough!!!! Comment Received 12/17/2012 8:53:27 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Garrett McBride City Lakeville County ST.JOSEPH State Indiana E-Mail Address garrett@mwlonline.com Comments I disagree with almost 100% of what has occurred over the last 2 years. Indiana's deer herd is being thinned. Many family's depend on a set # of deer to feed their family. I need 4 to feed mine through the year, so far I have only had opportunities to harvest 2. In my county you can take up to 8 antlerless. I do not know of anywhere in this county where that is a logical choice. Lengthening seasons, adding more seasons for specific weapons, etc is accomplishing nothing other than discouraging life long hunters who are dedicated to this deer herd. After speaking with many people about their stance on these new ammendments one said it best; "Heck they should make a automobile season. I have a better chance of hitting one after dark now than I do seeing one while hunting". Humorous, but unfortunately true. Having long seasons and a diminishing deer herd will NOT attract new hunters, rather it will remove many hunters from the woods. Point blank I'm tired of our deer herd coming under assault from those wanting to diminish the deer herd. I see nothing that has been proposed in the last 2 years that helps protect the valuable asset this state has in its deer herd. Quit the BS and listen to the hunters. Don't listen to a few special interests or a "popular" hunter who thinks they speak for us all. Listen to survey results and look into them deeply to ensure they are not tainted. There is not a hunter I know that takes their county's quota. You could change the quotas to 50 antlerless per county and you would not accomplish anything. Do I want a B&C around every tree, no, but bigger bucks are nice and that I believe was accomplished by going to the OBR. If you want to attract more hunters you need bigger bucks and populated does. To get bigger bucks, at least move the general firearms season out of the rut. Shortening would help as well, but not as critical as moving it out of the rut. Heck, break up archery season by placing in a couple 1 week breaks. The breaks should be Monday-Sunday. You have to eliminate a weekend if you want to give the deer a "break". If the state is after revenue it's simple...Bigger Bucks, More Does = More hunters interested = More license sales. Bigger Bucks, Few Does = More hunters becoming disinterested = LESS license sales. Solution = Manage the herd for Bigger Bucks by shortening the opening where hunters exist when the roaming bucks are at their weakest. Reduce county antlerless limits. Reduce the length of all seasons. Comment Received 12/18/2012 7:41:28 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name greg kelso City greensburg County DECATUR State indiana E-Mail Address gk8467@hotmail.com Comments Please do not add an extra season!!!! We have a MAJOR shortage of deer right now...whether or not the State wants to believe it or not! Insurance companies do not know as much about the deer herd as us hunters(who are in the field everyday) do!! STOP this slaughtering of our future herd NOW!!!!!! Comment Received 12/18/2012 8:41:01 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Scott hutchins City kendallville County NOBLE State Indiana E-Mail Address scott.hutchins@mchsi.com Comments I would completely enjoy hunting in mid September. Good idea. Comment Received 12/18/2012 11:47:56 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dustin Varble City Hanover County JEFFERSON State INDIANA E-Mail Address dustyvarble@yahoo.com Comments The only issue I have with the proposed rule is the early bow season from September 15th-30th. My main problem with this rule is that it makes it difficult to get any significant squirrel hunting time in on public lands before deer season begins. It is not fun to try and squirrel hunt with treestand hunters not wearing orange, and I am saying this as an avid deer hunter. If we have to have this season maybe make it private lands only? I also do not believe crossbows should be taken out of any part of archery season. By this reasoning you should go ahead and make it a traditional bow only season with no sights on the bow and no compound bows either. The woods is still not overcrowded with archers and we all pay taxes and buy licenses. I think the supposed "unchallenging performance edge" of a crossbow is more accurately translated into "I just want the public woods for myself". Comment Received 12/18/2012 3:07:17 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Cody Query City Petersburg County PIKE State IN E-Mail Address cquery2@yahoo.com Comments I am not for any more seasons. There are too many already. If anything the DNR should be shortening seasons. In my opinion EHD, predation and liberal bag limits have really cut the herd back. I know the trend is for more and more antlerless harvest but I think it is a major mistake. Several states I hunt are already starting to see the consequences of these actions. Ohio and Iowa are both way down on numbers compared to years past and I'm afraid we are heading in the same direction. Go to any Ohio hunting forum and read about it. If anything is done the long gun seasons should be amended and crossbows should be limited to their own season outside of archery. I have hunted for 25 years and have seen some good and some bad seasons. The last 5 years have gotten progressively worse and the amount of deer in my area is at a lower density than when I started. Hoping something is done to reverse the trend. If seasons are added please at least get rid of the depredation permits. These are mightily abused in areas and a wonderful resource is wasted in many instances. Thanks for allowing the input. Comment Received 12/20/2012 3:25:58 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name chad zartman City Warsaw County KOSCIUSKO State Indiana E-Mail Address chadzartman@yahoo.com Comments dont we have a long enough season already? i dont see any point in adding more season. primitive muzzle, whos really gonna hunt in january with a cap and ball after 18 days of regular muzzleloader season. how about 365 days of hunting with a new license every month? Comment Received 12/21/2012 3:55:47 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Ron Davault City Bargersville County JOHNSON State indiana E-Mail Address davaulttr@gmail.com Comments Not sure why there is a move to provide some sort of exclusive timeframe to recurve bow hunters over crossbow hunters. I suspect this comes from lobbying efforts of recurve hunters. having just shelled out about \$1000 to participate in the archery seasons with a crossbow this year, I am completely opposed to providing some special season for recurve or compound bow hunters. Sounds to me like a special interest rather science or good wildlife management that is behind this proposed rule change. I protest providing special treatment for a subset of us who deer hunt. Comment Received 12/27/2012 1:33:29 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Bob Hale City French Lick County ORANGE State IN E-Mail Address ffde31@aol.com Comments Hello and thank you, I am concerned that you are planning on removing crossbow use for the early archery season. I for one would be very disappointed in this</p>

<p>move. I use a CB, and feel many other users would be impacted negatively if this issue proceeds forward. Please keep the use of CB's in the early archery season.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/30/2012 9:45:27 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name John Bellam City Columbia City County WHITLEY State Indiana E-Mail Address johnbellam@orizonrealestate.com</p> <p>Comments There have been enormous changes in the deer regs the last couple years and not enough time to evaluate the impact of the changes. I think it is a bad idea to add another "month" of hunting. A couple years ago you wanted to shorten the season, now you propose to extend it. It appears to me that special interest are driving these changes. I do bow hunt with vertical bow, we already have a season as do the primitive muzzleloaders. How will this affect youth season and squirrel season, most squirrel hunters are out of the woods when bow hunting starts, respecting each others seasons. I have been hunting for 30 years and have never seen the deer population this low. We already have much longer seasons than adjoining states and to add more time is a bad idea. Will this lead to an inline MZ only season, shotgun only season, crossbow only season, recurve only season, compound only season, rifle only season, and handgun only season?</p> <p>Comment Received 12/31/2012 1:08:15 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Al Anderson City Columbia City County WHITLEY State Indiana E-Mail Address alanderson@live.com</p> <p>Comments I am strongly against adding "more" time to hunt deer. It is not very enjoyable hunting anymore, I'm seeing NO deer over 60% of the time I hunt. I worry about the future of youth hunting and them giving up on hunting as the numbers are very low. The one buck rule was great, I am seeing much larger bucks, but now another month of buck hunting too? These groups already have seasons to hunt in, they DO NOT need their own special season, nor can the deer population benefit from it.</p> <p>Thanks, Al</p> <p>Comment Received 12/31/2012 1:23:29 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Andy Treesh City Kendallville County NOBLE State Indiana E-Mail Address andytreesh@hotmail.com</p> <p>Comments I am a primitive MZ and vertical bow hunter, we do not need our "own season". We already have seasons to hunt in. The DNR is going to ruin the future of hunting for our kids. Indiana's deer season is already twice as long as adjoining states. You do not even know how the extra doe season and crossbow are going to effect the already low herd population. I have talked to no one that is happy about the direction the DNR is taking with regards to reduction! Enough is enough.</p> <p>Comment Received 12/31/2012 1:33:18 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Rick Tryon City Rosedale County PARKE State Indiana E-Mail Address wilrick47874@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments I personally am a die-hard bowhunter however i am against opening archery in mid-September. I think archery opens too early as it is, if anything propose archery season to open mid October and run till 3rd sunday in January.</p> <p>Comment Received 1/4/2013 3:41:27 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name MIKE SCHALLIOL City MISHAWAKA County ST.JOSEPH State IN E-Mail Address DHUNT4284@AOL.COM</p> <p>Comments I am totally against archery season opening up in in September and a late muzzleloader season.</p> <p>Comment Received 1/4/2013 5:26:50 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name H. Roger Miller City Rockport County SPENCER State Indiana Organization (optional) GDI E-Mail Address herdisr@aol.com</p> <p>Comments My wife, children and grand children, live and hunt in Spencer county. I am 70 years old, my wife is 65 and I speak for my enire family when I say I want to strongly object to any change in the crossbow season. A crossbow is just a bow, but it allows people of my age and my grand child an opportunity to get in the woods early and have a chance at the same deer that regular bow hunter have. Their greed absolute is unbelievable. I encourage you to just make bow season "bow season" and include all bow inclusive.</p> <p>Comment Received 1/5/2013 4:24:19 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Josh dillhoff City Brookville County FRANKLIN State In E-Mail Address dllhj7@aol.com</p> <p>Comments After the ehd outbreak I gotta say im totally against this late antlerless gun season I already know of four shed bucks that have been shot around brookville ,i can only imagine the statewide number.i also think bow season should go til febuary,its been tuff tryin to git on a archery buck with all the trigger happy bonus hunters.also dont see any reason for the large amount of does we can harvest ,deer sightings are way down! Thank you for your time!!!</p> <p>Comment Received 1/5/2013 9:17:51 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Vandell Knox City Kendallville County NOBLE State Indiana E-Mail Address van.knox@att.net</p> <p>Comments The early season starting Oct 1 allows for nearly half a century of family enjoyment of the camping and comradery during the early winter month of October. We have attempted our camping/hunting trips in early November but the weather is too unpredictable for our camping. This October time allows us the beautiful surroundings of the Indiana properties and provide us a challenge of rabbit hunting mid October. This early season still provides the small game cover and protection since the corn, beans and weeds remain. In our week long family camping/hunting trip, there is a challenge finding Rabbits with the heavy cover. Please consider continuing the early Rabbit hunting season so that we can continue with our hunting experience for our children and grandchildren. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Comment Received 1/8/2013 1:14:38 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Alan Maxson City Kendallville County NOBLE State Indiana E-Mail Address amaxson1@gmail.com</p> <p>Comments I feel that the DNR should continue the early cotton tail rabbit season starting 10-1-2013 on state reserve lands in Indiana. My family has hunted during this early season in Indiana for a number of years and we camp on State Ground. By starting the season later say in November, it would probably put an end to our camping and hunting do the very good chance of bad weather starting at the 1st part of November. We enjoy the last season camping in October and the rabbit hunting is a challange do to the weed growth an no snow but that has become a family tradition which we are trying to pass on to our children and grandchildren. Please don't put an end to our camping and hunting on Indiana's state ground.</p> <p>Comment Received 1/8/2013 1:59:42 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Adam Viel City Brookville County DEARBORN State Indiana E-Mail Address ajviel@msn.com</p> <p>Comments I concurr with the deer hunting proposals. Please consider changing rules for baiting as I do not understand how hunting on food plots that are intentional fo r feeding game or hunting near corn, soy beans, orchards can be legal vs. pouring shelled corn from a 50 lb. bag is illegal. Many states allow baiting.</p> <p>Comment Received 1/11/2013 12:28:00 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Tyson Yoder City Montgomery County DAVIESS State IN E-Mail Address tysman85@hotmail.com</p> <p>Comments I like the idea of starting archery season on Sept 15. It would give Archery hunters more of an advantage to pattern deer and harvest a mature buck with a bow.</p>

<p>Comment Received 1/22/2013 12:44:59 PM</p> <p>Commenter Name Roger Swalls City Clinton County VERMILLION State IN E-Mail Address r.swalls@sbcglobal.net Comments I have two brothers-in-laws who live in Tn, and since Tn has included crossbow hunting with regular archery seasons, there has been 0 problems, with 0 negative impact on nature also. There are more younger, female, and older hunters using crossbows. And the state DNR profits have gone up too. Comment Received 1/23/2013 11:43:34 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Wireman Scott City Rensselaer County JASPER State Indiana E-Mail Address dhwireman@googlemail.com Comments I am writing in concern to the proposed rule 312 IAC9-3-4: lengthening the archery season and adding a primitive muzzleloader season. I feel the two week, three weekend season is plenty. Indiana already has the most liberal season in the midwest, and one of the highest hunter densities. I have hunted Jasper county since 1985. In 2012, I saw the least number of deer in the woods, on trail cam, or driving the back roads. I know deer are considered a renewable resource, but that is only if they are managed properly. I have yet to see an estimated deer population number for any county in indiana, so how does the DNR justify such a high number of doe permits (8) and such long seasons. I feel if anything we should shorten are firearm season and not add more rifle calibors. Comment Received 1/27/2013 12:11:16 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name vernon warren City greenfield County HANCOCK State indiana E-Mail Address vern.warren@bacompt.com Comments I would be all for an earlier bow season. Comment Received 1/31/2013 11:24:29 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name John H eingartner City Fort Wayne County ALLEN State Indiana E-Mail Address bowhunterjohn63@yahoo.com Comments See no need for additional "traditional" archery or muzzleloader season, these people are not prohibited from using their CHOICE of weapon during archery or muzzleloader season, so why should they have a special season. Our seasons have worked just fine as they are, becoming too convoluted.</p> <p>I think early archery should start on Ocotober 1st as always, I have and do hunt Urban, rarely get out much first two weeks due to heat.</p> <p>Rabbit season extension purposal is GREAT, include SQUIRREL too !! Many of us , myself included, deer hunt the same woods, if we rabbit or squirrel hunt it screws up the deer hunting, so it would be nice to have extra time after deer season to put some rabbit and squirrel in the freezer</p> <p>THANKS for ALL you guys and gals do for us Hoosier Hunters, I can tell you this one appreciates all your efforts</p> <p>Cordially John Heingartner Comment Received 2/5/2013 8:04:58 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Calvin Hunt City Kokomo County HOWARD State IN E-Mail Address Rothhar1@aol.com Comments I am totally against a early start vertical only Bow only season .Leave bow season with xbow as is period.I am also against the Proposed traditional Muzzleloader season .Since both parties already have the right to hunt just the same as every other hunter in this state I see this more of a open attack on hunters who hunt with other weapons .Since it appears to be just another unneeded SPECIAL interest fueled deer season that will exclude most other hunters .</p> <p>Not to mention we already hunt deer for too long now enough is enough the low rent way that some crybaby hunters are trying to get back at and exclude the cross bow hunters and get out to hunt their big bucks prior to the youth weekend kick off is nothing more than an embarrassment that the IDNR would ever entertain this idea .</p> <p>Leave the seasons alone till we have at least 3-5 years of results with the current rules in place. Comment Received 2/6/2013 5:57:38 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name eric cress City Salem County WASHINGTON State IN E-Mail Address hhcress@blueriver.net Comments archery equipment is archery equipment open a archery season and then leave it alone.comp.bow,tradbow,crossbow.all archery. Comment Received 2/11/2013 6:05:30 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Lewis Erwin City Pleasant Lake County STEUBEN State Indiana E-Mail Address lewis_erwin@yahoo.com Comments To whom it may concern: I believe that splitting out special seasons for long bows and primitive muzzleloaders is wrong. We should not bow to special interest groups. The proposed change creates animosity between groups as some are seen being treated differently or better then others. If you want to extend the bow or muzzleloader season you should extend it for all to be fair. Thank you Comment Received 2/12/2013 9:29:46 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dale Sides City Madison County JEFFERSON State Indiana E-Mail Address jamessides@seidata.com Comments With the harvest we are now getting we do NOT NEED any more seasons Primitive archery or Especially Muzzle loader Thanks Dale Sides Comment Received 2/28/2013 6:57:42 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Scott M. Schwing City Rising Sun County OHIO State IN E-Mail Address schwings@embarqmail.com Comments If all muzzleloaders are not included, then I vote no to a primitive muzzleloader season. Comment Received 2/28/2013 7:52:05 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name arthur c brown City rising sun County SWITZERLAND State Indiana Organization (optional) N/A E-Mail Address acbrown@orvcomm.com Comments I see no reason or need for another "special" season. Rules, regulations, times, dates, what's legal, whats not. Do we take days away from other seasons or add even more days to allow "these special interest groups too hunt. Where will it stop? Comment Received 2/28/2013 9:17:27 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Steven J Neher City Huntertown County ALLEN State IN E-Mail Address sneher@peoplepc.com Comments I support the primitive muzzle loading deer season</p>

Comment Received 3/1/2013 1:42:42 PM

Commenter Name Calvin E Hunt
City Kook **County** HOWARD **State** IN
E-Mail Address Rothhar1@aol.com

Comments We already have a ML season for anyone to use any ML they want . Please enough is enough give this convoluted season and complication to our hunting a break . Lets see where this new antlerless season takes us .

Lets face it the deer herd is on the decline in most counties in this state . And we just had a record harvest yet the buck harvest has fallen 8000 bucks in just two seasons .This is a sign of too heavy hunting pressure and loss of buck fawn recruitment and births..

We don't need more deer seasons or licenses to be sold for the sake of a very small group and all the special interest hunting seasons is getting old .What is next Spear season in July .

I say no to all new seer seasons at this time we need some accurate results so seasons can be adjusted in a few years if this downward trend in buck r deer harvest continues .I think leave the seasons as they are for at least 2 more seasons and then make the proper changes as needed.

Comment Received 3/1/2013 5:31:11 PM

Commenter Name Patrick Jordan
City South Bend **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address pjordan43@hotmail.com

Comments GENERAL SEASONS

I have noticed the archery season will be extended to Sept. 15th and the primitive muzzleloader season extended into January. We have also seen youth seasons and crossbows allowed in early archery season. Overall I see an extreme liberalization of our hunting resource.

Indiana is in a unique position where our seasons are considered by most hunters as the most liberal in the midwest when it comes to whitetails. We now have 36 days of gun season on either sex and a additional 5 days of antlerless seasons. Sept 15th will be oen of the earliest start dates in the midwest and our bow hunters are allowed to use crossbows now.

It appears our goal is to deplete the resource instead of properly manage it. Indiana does not have to adopt rules such as Iowa, but at the same time we need to recognize that we will exhaust our resource if we continue in the direction we are headed.

A clear message was sent last season with the crossbow hunter harvest being 8X's higher than the year before. Our gunhunters have adopted the crossbow. With that being said, I would like to see Indiana shorten the length of gun season in the future.

LANDOWNER TAGS

I would propose a minimum acreage of 40 acres required to arquire a landowner tag. This will help to increase revenue for the dept.

NON RESIDENT TAGS

Indiana has one of the cheapest NR tags and I would like to see that amount increase to somewhere in the 300.00 range. Given the #2 NT was taken this year in Indiana we are going to see a big influx of out of state hunters and this could create a big revenue stream as well.

Comment Received 3/4/2013 6:56:41 PM

Commenter Name Bill Herring
City Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address elk7x57@comcast.net

Comments We have a long-standing tradition of killing large game animals and domestic livestock in late fall to early winter. That is when the weather turns cool to cold, when the young of the game species are able to survive on their own, and when the young are big enough to supply more than a few ounces of meat if they are killed. I will add my voice to those who say that we already have enough statewide deer seasons to accommodate all legal "tools/weapons" without engaging in "class warfare" and trying to carve out an exclusive time for "my type of weapon only." Furthermore, we have enough time to get the job done of managing the statewide deer herd within the time frame of October 1 to December 31. That is 3 months per year. That is one fourth of the year that deer are subject to being hunted and killed. That is plenty of time to get the job done and give the deer a "break" the other 9 months of the year. (Perhaps we should also consider a "break" for ourselves, our families, and many others as well.)

If we need to do special management (deer herd reduction) in selected Urban Zones that can be started on September 15, as it is now. Also, the special Youth Season weekend in late September seems to have worked out pretty well to help recruit young hunters. The only other reason I could see for September deer hunting would be for special depredation permits in specific areas where deer are a serious problem that cannot be satisfactorily addressed by the statewide season structure, which includes the bonus antlerless permits by county. To use any part of September for any statewide deer season except the Youth Season is really tying the hands of DNR. Because, once established, a proposed sharing of statewide archery season in September would meet with a tremendous resistance from bow hunters who would not want to share "their" season with anyone else who uses a different tool -- regardless of whether that sharing would be good for overall deer management in Indiana.

Likewise, any statewide season for special ("primitive") kinds of muzzle loaders in January is totally unnecessary. We can already hunt with any kind of muzzle loader now during all of the firearms and muzzle loading seasons. Just like we can already hunt with any kind of bow during all of the existing archery, firearms, AND muzzle loading seasons.

So, IF we truly want a special, primitive weapons season, maybe we should just have a COMBINED primitive archery and primitive muzzle loading season beginning the first Saturday after October 11 and running for an additional 8 days. Then we would have much greater participation because the hunters would not have to endure the often frigid weather of early January, the hot weather of September, and the severely depleted supply of big-antlered bucks and fat does by January 1. It would come before the main rut. It would not interfere with the Youth Season. It would not interfere with the use of depredation permits in September. And, the season would fall within the October 1 to December 31 time frame. To me this makes a lot more sense than expanding the overall "deer season" on the front and back ends of the existing season structure.

Comment Received 4/2/2013 6:24:54 PM

Commenter Name Jason Brown
City Washington **County** DAVIESS **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address crktm21@yahoo.com

Comments Indiana needs no more deer season date changes and no more additional "seasons" that would exclude participants like the early archery season that excludes horizontal archery equipment or the late muzzleloader season that excludes more modern muzzleloader equipment.

Comment Received 4/3/2013 2:16:06 PM

Commenter Name Kevin Wright
City Eckerty **County** CRAWFORD **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address mournak@gmail.com

Comments Primitive Muzzleloader season dates should be Moved til the last week of September.

Comment Received 5/2/2013 12:27:27 PM

Commenter Name Scott W. Ballentine
City Jamestown **County** BOONE **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) NMLRA

E-Mail Address gunsmith46147@yahoo.com

Comments I would very much like to see a primitive muzzleloading season. As a builder of 18th flintlock rifles and a portrayer of Private William Bratton of the Lewis and Clark Corp of Discovery I think a primitive season would be a wonderful idea. When I hunt I even dress as in the 18th century, though hunter orange does kind of temper the mood.

Comment Received 5/2/2013 9:36:40 PM

Commenter Name Warner W Freese
City Covington **County** FOUNTAIN **State** Indiana

<p>Organization (optional) multiple farm owner E-Mail Address houselions@att.net Comments Crossbows should be allowed for taking deer in the new Sept 15 to Sept season. This is consistent with the goal of controlling the whitetail population by taking more animals. Comment Received 5/3/2013 11:57:30 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name James Street City New Albany County FLOYD State Indiana E-Mail Address jjas3933@aol.com Comments Let's leave the deer hunting rules/seasons alone. There has been enough change. There is enough opportunity for hunters and weapons choices. Allowing the archery season to open two weeks before it does now just puts even more pressure on the herd and disrupts the youth season. Comment Received 5/9/2013 10:06:42 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Tim James City Leesburg County KOSCIUSKO State Indiana E-Mail Address gprjudge@gmail.com Comments Here we go again.....the state coming up with Mickey Mouse gimmicks to tease deer hunters, but not give them what they want. The Majority of the Deer Hunters in this state want a SHORTER GUN SEASON OUT OF THE RUT!!! No other state is trying to adjust their deer seasons to mimic Indiana's 30+ day gun buck season that starts during the peak of the rut.....NOBODY!! Get with modern times Indiana DNR.....tell the NRC, Bryan Pointer and Pat Early that they were dead WRONG when they forced Proposal 2.0 down everyone's throat. That move has divided this state and has pitted hunters against hunters ever since that lame move.....and now more "Mickey Mouse" season gimmicks?? Grow up.....Get real.....Give us what we want.....and quit listening to Woody Williams clones of Huntingindianacrossbowkilleverythingfakemajority.com Comment Received 5/9/2013 10:27:54 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name David F. Delaney City Indianapolis County MARION State Indiana Organization (optional) NONE E-Mail Address eelriver50@yahoo.com Comments The additional archery days, without crossbow, and the additional primitive muzzleloader season is ridiculous and without value. There is plenty of opportunity for hunters today, with Indiana being mostly private land there is no reason to eliminate those who wish to use a crossbow during the archery seasons especially on private land, and constant change to rules does not allow management analysis form year to year. If there is added 15 days to archery, those with a handicap permit should be allowed to use the crossbow. This selfish idealism of keeping certain hunters or weapons out of the field is not fair to the average Indiana citizen, who the DNR should be most concerned about. Comment Received 5/10/2013 2:10:48 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Ryan McDuffee City Springville County LAWRENCE State Indiana E-Mail Address rjmcduffee@hotmail.com Comments I am opposed to adding an extra 15-days to the bow season for vertical bow only. The transparent agendas of few small vocal groups shine through and I would appreciate Indiana and IDNR make rules without having to bend to the vocal minority. Comment Received 5/12/2013 8:04:57 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Joe Paul City West Harrison County FRANKLIN State IN E-Mail Address jopaul@iupui.edu Comments I am in favor of having crossbows out of archery season for the first 15 days of season, however I do not feel season needs to start any sooner than Oct 1. If crossbows must remain included in the archery season, start it on Oct. 15 or later. Starting season in Sept. I feel is too early to start taking mature does away from their fawns. Comment Received 5/16/2013 7:56:38 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name David Fehr City Plymouth County MARSHALL State Indiana E-Mail Address dcfehr@embarqmail.com Comments I think that letting "bow hunters" start September 15th is a great idea. It gives us an opportunity to harvest a buck possibly still in velvet. I would also like to comment on the "check in" change from last year. I don't like it. I believe it increases the opportunity to poach. I heard many single shots and follow up shots during early bow season last year. It's not that inconvenient to go to a check station. I wish you would change it back. Thank you Comment Received 5/19/2013 11:33:43 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Tim Abbott City Vevay County SWITZERLAND State IN E-Mail Address tim.abbott2@duke-energy.com Comments The rule prohibiting the use of cross bows in the proposed September portion of deer archery season should be rejected. The proposed rule is discriminatory, and cannot be tied to any game management principle. There is no good reason to provide a special season for the non-cross bow using community. Allowing crossbows was a positive step in the recruitment of new bow hunters. It makes no sense to go backwards, at this point. Comment Received 5/20/2013 7:21:34 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Harvey Raber City Millersburg County ELKHART State IN E-Mail Address harvmary@centurylink.net Comments the rule changes all sound sensible! I fully support them. Comment Received 5/20/2013 9:56:25 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name John G Burnette City Kokomo County HOWARD State In E-Mail Address j.g.burnette@comcast.net Comments The new primitive muzzle loading only season is a great ideal. However, why does it have to wait until January. It is a punishing time, weather wise with the cold temperature to be using muzzleloader gear for us old guys. I have written in the past asking for such a season and a grateful something has been granted but how about some thought to a September/October time frame and warmer temperatures for us older black powder loving guys. Thanks Comment Received 5/23/2013 1:42:57 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Todd A. Woods City Bedford County LAWRENCE State Indiana E-Mail Address todd.woods1@comcast.net Comments 312 IAC 9-2-14 - This change is good 312 IAC 9-2-15 - This change is good; it might be good to remove the word "ground" so it would apply to tower blinds and blinds afixed to tree stands. 312 IAC 9-3-2 - ok 312 IAC 9-3-3 and 312 IAC 9-3-4- Removing restriction on O/U shotgun/rifle good; I don't see the need for special seasons and I hunt with both traditional archery and muzzleloader. Deer season can start on 15 September and should end on 30 January with no intermission. Up to the modern firearm season, archery equipment, and crossbows (since they're now legal) should be permitted. Throughout modern firearms seasons archery equipment, crossbows, and muzzleloaders ("modern" or traditional) should be allowed. A late muzzleloader season is ok, but allow both modern and traditional styles. Ohio has an early muzzleloader season restricted to a couple of their state forests which is pretty popular and worth considering. It does not restrict muzzleloader type. 312 IAC 9-3-16 - Anytime one standardize season dates its easier to comply with the rules. Last comment; appreciate your hard work. Its not easy to try to please everyone. And you shouldn't. Think of it this way....If you want to hunt with traditional equipment or modern equipment in the scenario I've advocated aboveyou can. Comment Received 5/26/2013 11:02:11 AM</p>

<p>Commenter Name Jeff Wiesemann City Valparaiso County PORTER State IN E-Mail Address jwiesemannj@hotmail.com Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3 Specifies that crossbows cannot be used in the archery season from Sept. 15 through Sept 30. Isn't the whole purpose of allowing crossbow hunting in Indiana to thin the deer population? Limiting crossbow equipment deters this purpose especially during the early part of the season. Comment Received 5/28/2013 8:51:27 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Justin Lynton City Knox County STARKE State Indiana Organization (optional) DNR E-Mail Address jlynton@dnr.in.gov Comments If an early archery season were to start in mid September then with the current schedule, Indiana's youth season would be coming in two weeks later. With the emphasis on recruitment and retention and allowing young hunters to be pursuing unpressured deer, this system will not work. It has only been just recently that Indiana has allowed crossbows to be used and nobody has had enough time to fully evaluate what impacts or influences that has on early archery season. If this season is being implemented in order to appease a few people who want their own season to hunt with "vertical bows" then a serious re-evaluation needs to be done. We are practically already deer hunting 3 MONTHS out of the year anyway and I do not understand what difference another two or so weeks is going to make. It is just way to early. Comment Received 5/29/2013 8:53:35 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Matt Ellenberger City New Ross County MONTGOMERY State Indiana E-Mail Address mattellenberger@hotmail.com Comments Thank you for looking different ways to control our state's deer population. I think opening archery season on September 15 and adding a primitive muzzleloader season are great ideas. I am looking forward to hearing about these measures passing. Thanks again. Comment Received 6/3/2013 1:56:36 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jason Brown City Washington County DAVIESS State Indiana E-Mail Address vtx1300custom@yahoo.com Comments Indiana does not need a primitive muzzleloader or early archery season without crossbows to segregate and further alienate those who choose modern weapons to hunt deer. Early archery season will interfere with the relatively short time that squirrel hunters have the woods to themselves. Comment Received 6/4/2013 10:00:16 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Ron Davault City Bargersville County JOHNSON State IN E-Mail Address davaulttr@gmail.com Comments I am very unhappy with plans to add a special season for archery equipment and exclude crossbows. I and many hunters purchased crossbows because they were legal equipment starting last year. It is very irritating and frankly wrong to provide special opportunities to the long bow archery hunters who have convinced DNR to give them first chance for 2 weeks at all the big bucks. There can be NO scientific reason or data to support this change. This is political special interest as bad as it gets!! Comment Received 6/4/2013 11:10:25 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jason Lauer City Fort Wayne County ALLEN State IN E-Mail Address jelauer@gmail.com Comments I am opposed to moving the opening day for archery into September. I am not opposed to adding time for Archery but not at the beginning of the season. I would rather it be at the end of the season.</p> <p>Also, if the archery (vertical only) season starts sept.15th then what happens to the youth hunt? Is it too moved up.</p> <p>I do not understand why we need a traditional muzzleloader season, can they not use a traditional muzzleloader during the current muzzleloader season.</p> <p>It seems to me that all the IDNR is trying to do is kill deer. What is the IDNR's goal; to improve the quality of the deer herd, or to reduce the number of automobile accidents by introducing extreme measures that reduce the number of deer, thus maybe permanently hurting the quality of deer in Indiana.</p> <p>If the state and more specifically the IDNR really wants to increase its revenue it will stop listening to legislators and start paying attention to how other states manage their deer herd. There are great examples of states that are raking in license fees because the deer in those states are in demand.</p> <p>Come on IDNR, I hope you make the right decisions Comment Received 6/4/2013 1:22:07 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name William Ruddell City Westville County LAPORTE State Indiana E-Mail Address dachief_1@live.com Comments Re; Hunter orange on hunting blinds. I just want to comment on this proposed change and state that I disagree with this idea. Wild turkey have the ability to recognize color and I feel that hunter orange draped on a ground blind will impede the hunter's chances in a successful turkey hunt. With the need to have a turkey as close as possible, for an archer, I feel the hunter orange will effect the blind's approachability. If there are people in the field that cannot recognize a ground blind without it being draped in hunter orange, then we need to check out some vision testing. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals. Comment Received 6/4/2013 1:31:31 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Robert Mills City English County CRAWFORD State Indiana E-Mail Address rmills1962@gmail.com Comments I for one am against bringing archery season in early. An earlier season serves no purpose at all as for having a quality deer herd. Our seasons as well as bag limits are to liberal and need to be cut back. Changes like the ones proposed serve no other purpose but to help special interest groups, just as you did for the crossbow people!! Comment Received 6/4/2013 1:32:51 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Jeff Valovich City Chesterton County PORTER State IN E-Mail Address jtv2485@gmail.com Comments We do not need another opening Date change for deer archery, nor do we need a primitive season for ML's.... they already have their muzzleloader season and the Oct 1st opener is fine as it is for deer...our deer herd has been hammered as shown in the lower numbers of bucks being killed.....Adult Does in NW Indiana are becoming a scarce creature...1 hunter can take up to 16 deer here in Porter Co.the herd up here can NOT handle this type of pressure....this isnt southern Indiana !! Leave the deer seasons alone and drop the bonus tags for NW Indiana !! Comment Received 6/4/2013 3:14:34 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Dean Fatt City Indianapolis County MARION State IN E-Mail Address dean.farr@sbcglobal.net Comments 312 IAC 9-2-14 Fishing, hunting, and trapping without a license by owners and lessees of farmland - Indiana is too generous with its user fee (license) exemptions. We lose Federal matching grant dollars with all these unregistered (non-licensed) users. Indiana should restrict this privilege. This rules seems to ease restrictions. Comment Received 6/4/2013 7:59:05 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name gary rays City vevay County SWITZERLAND State in.</p>

<p>E-Mail Address gary1695@centurylink.net</p> <p>Comments I like the idea of Sept. deer hunting but not with compound only I just got a new crossbow make all of us hunt together Thank You</p> <p>Comment Received 6/7/2013 9:54:38 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name David F. Delaney</p> <p>City Indianapolis County MARION State Indiana</p> <p>Organization (optional) None</p> <p>E-Mail Address eelriver50@yahoo.com</p> <p>Comments There is no good reason to expand the days for deer season for any additional seasons. If there is an added 15 archery season, without crossbows, don't disadvantage the handicap people and let them use a crossbow during that season if they have a handicap permit, just like it used to be. Catering to the special interest (almost no measurable membership) groups is just getting out of hand.</p> <p>David Delaney</p> <p>Comment Received 6/10/2013 5:14:13 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Tom Demaree</p> <p>City vevay County SWITZERLAND State indiana</p> <p>Organization (optional) land owner/ farmer</p> <p>E-Mail Address ridgewinery@netpenny.net</p> <p>Comments It would only be fair that if dates are to be changed that all hunters get to participate in the hunt. I have two young grandchildren that can not use a regular bow but can use a crossbow. we put out food plots and participate in local regulated procedures. I do not understand leaving a hunter set at home that wants to help with the deer population who are not trophy hunters, when allowing 15 days for "trophy" bow hunters to have the selective hunting rights. furthermore if this state is going to continue to grow a new generation of hunters, then special treatment should go to our youth hunters and not just a selective group.</p> <p>Comment Received 6/11/2013 9:47:23 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Bobby Gabbard</p> <p>City vevay County SWITZERLAND State indiana</p> <p>Organization (optional) landowner/ farmer</p> <p>E-Mail Address buckshotbobby04@hotmail.com</p> <p>Comments I do not understand how we can open a special season for archery and not include the crossbow. as a united states armed forces veteran, I know of several other veterans who fluently hunt and support our state wildlife but are not able to use a regular bow. if we are going to have special hunting dates it should cover everyone not just a select few.</p> <p>Comment Received 6/11/2013 9:56:03 PM</p>
<p>Commenter Name gary graf</p> <p>City sellersburg County CLARK State indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address gary.graf@louisville.edu</p> <p>Comments We have been involved in major changes in our deer seasons in the last couple years. The public has spoke and accepted crossbow as archery weapon and wanted it accepted during the regular archery season. They have done this twice. We don't need to add two weeks of season for early archery or more at the end for primitive hunting. If it is decided to add the early archery season then crossbow which has been deemed as a acceptable archery tool must be allowed during the whole archery season. Anyone wanting to hunt with primitive weapons are welcome to do so now during our firearms and muzzleloading season, another special season is not needed. Lets quit thinking we need to change something every year to appease every single hunter and quit catering to special interest groups, they do not represent the majority hunting population of the state of Indiana. Lets also see how the recent changes we have adopted effect the herd and hunting enviroment before adding more and more seasons. We have 3 months now to hunt deer with many methods and satisfys the majority of hunters. We almost have to carry the rule book now to keep up with all of these seasons, change is okay as technology changes but to change something every year in response of a few small special interest groups is too much. LEAVE THE SEASONS AS WE DECIDED THE LAST COUPLE YEARS</p> <p>Comment Received 6/12/2013 8:24:51 AM</p>
<p>Commenter Name Greg Spurgeon</p> <p>City Terre Haute County VIGO State Indiana</p> <p>E-Mail Address xx78@msn.com</p> <p>Comments Just a comment in strong support of the rule change to add a statewide archery season for only hand-drawn hand-held bows to open Sept 15th annually. This season is already in effect in urban areas and will be an excellent boost in opportunity for hunters in the remaining areas of the state. The added difficulty factor inherent in hand-drawn bows will insure modest participation and therefore a minimal impact on the resource, yet provide an opportunity for those seeking to hunt during a low-impact time period using more challenging methods.</p> <p>Comment Received 6/12/2013 7:49:26 PM</p>

June 13 - 2013

Dear Sir

I would like to see bow season open up the first of September. I never thought it was fair that you've let crossbow hunt the same time as bow hunters.

Also I'm not in favor of taking peregrine falcon of the endangered list. I have never seen one in Southern Indiana

Douglas B. Larson

Doug Larson
505 South Arsenal
Vincennes Ind. 47591

May 27, 2013

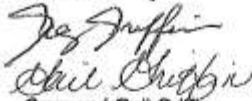
Bryan Poynter Chair - Citizen Member

The Indiana Natural Resources Commission Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

INRC/DNR Member:

Contrary to John S. Castrale, Nongame Bird Biologist, I am very much opposed to delisting/removing the Peregrine Falcon from the Endangered Species List so soon based on the evidence I have reviewed. We, tax-payers and voting volunteers and lay citizens in general have worked very hard and spent considerable time and effort to restore the few pairs of Peregrine Falcons that we now have. Not only do chemicals like the DDT once heavily used and other pesticides used - caused the Peregrine Falcons to nearly become extinct, but careless and trigger-happy Hoosiers, who like to shoot any bird or animal they can kill, have also drastically contributed to the reduction to the 20-22 nesting areas that we have finally managed to restore in Indiana. We should at least give these wonderful birds - that have been under attack for so long a better chance to survive by keeping them on the Endangered Species List a few years longer. Why not give them a similar chance like the Indiana Eagles an opportunity to make a more significant come-back - like 100 or so Peregrine Falcon nesting areas? Modern society has reduced their numbers for some time, let's give them a chance in order for more nesting areas to develop so that a reasonable population of such birds can exist so that our children and future generations might actually be able to see a wild Peregrine Falcon in flight and not one in a cage or only at a rehabilitation raptor education program.

Sincerely,



Greg and Gail Griffin
7159 E. Short Blue Rd.
Shelbyville, IN 46176

6-12-13
Eric C. Sobczak
2000 E 276th St
Atlanta, IN 46031
317-695-3955

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to give my written opinion on the proposed Quail rule changes. I believe changing to a shorter season will restrict my ability to hunt Quail on a somewhat short season already. I do not believe this will help the population grow. It did not seem to help the Grouse population. Most of the Quail are taken by predators and the inclement weather, not by hunters. These proposed changes will also keep me from hunting on private land, dog training grounds and put and take locations.

Thank you for your time.


Eric Sobczak

Do not move zone

DWR

I AM OPPOSED TO MOVING THE QUAIL ZONE SOUTH TO I74. I HUNT IN THE AREA AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE AND AS A CONSEQUENCE I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN NEARLY AS MANY DAYS IN THE FIELD.

Conflict with
Hem season

WITH DEER SEASONS RUNNING INTO LATE NOV AND DECEMBER MOST PROPERTY OWNERS WILL NOT ALLOW HUNTING UNTIL THE GUN SEASONS ARE OVER. WITH A DEC 15 QUAIL SEASON END YOU ARE ESSENTIALLY ELIMINATING ANY OPPORTUNITIES TO QUAIL HUNT.

Affect of
Summer
Grouse season

GOOSE SEASON WAS SHORTENED A FEW YEARS BACK. THE RESULT WAS LESS INTEREST IN GOOSE AND NO INCREASE IN POPULATIONS THAT I AM AWARE OF.

PROPERTY ISSUES

I ALSO REQUEST THAT REGULATIONS ON PROPERTIES BE INCLUDED IN THE RULE PROCESS. IT SEEMS PROPERTIES MAKE DECISIONS ON A WIM CAUSING MUCH CONFUSION TO HUNTERS THAT WASTE TIME TRAVELING TO PROPERTIES THAT ARE CLOSED THINGS WITHOUT NOTICE. THEY ALSO DO NOT HAVE IT IS ALSO NOT RIGHT THAT I HAVE TO MAKE A SPECIAL TRIP TO GOOSE AND TO HUNT FOR A QUAIL HUNT. IT IS A 3+ HOUR DRIVE ONE WAY.

IN SUMMARY I DO NOT SUPPORT THE QUAIL SEASON CHANGES AND THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE TRANSPARENT ON PROPERTY MANAGEMENT.

Jim Truetsch
Arcadia In 46030



N.R.C.
100 North SENATE AVE
Room N.501
INDIANAPOLIS Ind
46204

DEAR SIR

I am writing you this letter
ON PROPOSED CHANGES ON HUNTING AND FISHING
then one I would like to see the price
on the price of deer licenses from
60 dollars to 20 dollars this way
more people can get out and hunt deer
and people like to see a deer in
fish and licenses from 17 dollars
to 10 dollars so people know what is
PRIMITIVE hunting deer season and how
how long does it last?

Sincerely

JOHN M. THE BILKIN

DEAR COMMISSION,

PLEASE, LEAVE thing ALONE!
OVER THE LAST 10 YRS. THERE
HAVE BEEN plenty of changes.
WE DON'T NEED 75 DIFFERANT
SEASONS IN INDIANA FOR HUNTING
DEER. ALL THE SPECIAL INTEREST
GROUPS NEED TO GET OVER IT!!!

I AM A VERY FRUSTRATED HOOSIER
HUNTER, who for A while would
like TO SEE THINGS JUST STAY
THE SAME

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME
ERIC CRESS

3068 GRANDVIEW RD SALEM IN
47167

hrcress@BLUERIVER.NET
812-883-1231

Eric Cress



ERIC CRESS
3068 W GRANDVIEW RD
SALEM, IN 47167-8279

FILED

MAY 23 2013

5/22/13

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
DIVISION OF HEARINGS

NOTE!

I AM NOT A HUNTER AS YOU'LL TELL BY THIS LETTER.

YOUR WANTING TO EXTEND THE SEASON FOR DEER EVEN MORE, WHICH ALREADY RUNS FROM SEPT TO JAN. ???? ONE THING OR ANOTHER KIDS TIME. GUN. ARROW M/LANDER ARROW KIDS ADULTS YOU NAME, IT YOU GUYS HAVE IT TO WHERE YOUR GETTING THE MOST MONEY OUT OF IT THAT YOU CAN. THE HECK WITH THE DEER. THE INS CO PAYING INTO IT AS WELL TO KILL OFF ALL THE DEER.

I KNOW GROUPS UP HERE THAT BRAG ABOUT GETTING 40 TO 60 DEER A YEAR. THEN I HEAR PEOPLE COMPLAINING THAT HUNTING IS HARDER THEN WHAT IT USED TO BE.

SAID THE DEER HERD MUST BE DOWN CAUSE IT TAKES 4 OR 5 TIMES OUT TO GET EM ANYMORE.

I THINK THE SYSTEM HAS DESTROYED THE DEER HERD. I SEE LESS AND LESS EVERY YR. I GUESS YOUR GOAL IN 0 FOR THE DEER AND MORE MONEY IN THE POCKET.

I AM TIRED OF THE 8 TO 12 DEER PER PERSON IN EA AND EVERY CO. AND TIRED OF THE SEASON BEING ALREADY WAY TO LONG JUST WHAT IS THE GOAL HERE ???

STOP ALL PARK HUNTING. PEOPLE WANT TO SEE DEER SOMEWHERE. GOD FORBID IT ISNT IN THE FARMERS FIELDS OR ANY WOODS NO MORE. OR EVEN IN MY BACK YARD WHERE THEY USED TO BE ALL THE TIME BEFORE THE 8 TO 12 DEER LIMIT CAME IN AND THE LONGER SEASONS.

SEASON NEED TO BE SHORTER AND LESS ARROW TIME. I SEE WAY TO MANY HURT DEER BECAUSE OF ARROWS.

K. MEERIN
68250 RILEY TR.
BREMEN IN.
46506

December 17, 2012

Wall Lake Fisherman's Association
5945 N. 1185 E.
Orland, Indiana 46776

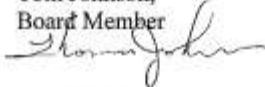
Indiana Natural Resource Commission
Indiana Government Center North
100 North Senate Avenue, Room N501
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2200

Dear Sirs

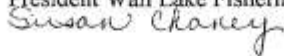
This letter is being provided to reaffirm that the Wall Lake Fisherman's Association, which represent Wall Lake property owners, support the proposal to reduce the walleye bag limit to two fish and increase the minimum size limit to 16 inches. We have supported this fish management approach since 2003 when it was initially discussed with your fisheries staff and most recently outlined in a 2007 Wall Lake Work Plan (Management Plan).

Sincerely,

Tom Johnson,
Board Member



Susan Chaney,
President Wall Lake Fisherman's Association



George Griffith,
Vice President Wall Lake Fisherman's Association

To:

DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife

Attn: Proposed Regulatory Changes

402 W. Washington St. Rm W273

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Sirs: I am writing this letter in support of the pending, proposed "bass slot limit" change to Big Long lake. Neil Ledet has proposed at one our Association meeting's last year the proposed "bass slot" program that was being proposed for our Lake. The residents/members that were present were all in favor of this change hoping that this will increase the size of the BASS being caught over time. There are as we were told and most fisherman have told us is that there are abnormal quantities or bass being caught under the 14" limit.

WE as an Association are in favor of this regulation change and support the pending approval.

Thank you.

Big Long lake Association

Jim Williams, President

CC: Board members

Date: July 27, 2012.

Po Box 203

South Milford, Indiana 46786-0203

Phone: cell-219-983-2865 e-mail: jawilliams@fujifilm.com

EXHIBIT C

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESPONSE

312 IAC 9-2-15, Hunter orange on ground blinds

With ground blinds becoming more common and inexpensive, the Divisions of Fish and Wildlife and Law Enforcement believe that hunter orange requirements need to be added for occupied ground blinds when a hunter is required to wear orange to hunt that species of wild animal. Without this, a hunter who is required by state law to wear hunter orange can hide in a ground blind where the orange is no longer visible, creating a safety issue. This only will apply from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, which are the same hunting hours for deer.

312 IAC 9-3-3 and 9-3-4, Deer seasons

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is requesting that the proposed addition of the archery season from September 15 through 30 without crossbows and the primitive muzzleloader season addition not be given final adoption.

The archery season already runs from October 1 through the first Sunday in January. Adding an additional fifteen (15) days simply without crossbows does the following:

- Creates confusion for hunters by having another restriction on equipment for these 15 days
- Makes it difficult to evaluate the deer rules that were just changed in 2011 and in effect for the start of the 2012 deer season. The Division of Fish and Wildlife has plans to evaluate these rules in 5 years, and this evaluation will not be accurate if additional seasons are added.
- Creates conflicts with small game hunters during these 15 days
- Partitions seasons even more, creating factions that could affect deer hunting in the future
- Does not help manage the deer herd; these additional days are not needed
- Creates the need for disabled hunters to have to obtain a special disability permit again to use a crossbow. Disabled hunters will still be able to get a permit to use a crossbow during these fifteen (15) days, creating an additional burden on Division of Fish and Wildlife staff.

The primitive muzzleloader season also creates confusion for deer hunters. Muzzleloaders can already be used during the deer firearms season and muzzleloader season, and an additional season simply for certain types of muzzleloaders is not necessary. It also creates confusion for deer hunters by having another muzzleloader season that is more restrictive, creates conflicts with other hunters, and makes it difficult to evaluate the deer rules that were in effect for the start of the 2012 deer season.

These two changes are not needed to manage the deer herd and are not supported by the majority of those who commented on this rule package.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is requesting final adoption to the proposed change in 312 IAC 9-3-3(b)(5) that would allow the use of bows drawn, held, or released other than by hand or hand-held releases during the archery season when crossbows are legal to use. This would allow the use of draw-locs and other similar devices. With crossbows being legal during the regular archery season that starts on October 1 as well as the urban deer season, there is no longer a need to prohibit the use of draw-locs and other devices used on a bow that that help draw, hold, or release the bow during these seasons. Written comments also supported this change.

312 IAC 9-3-16, Cottontail rabbit season

While the season would no longer be open in October, the rabbit season is being extended in February by two weeks. The change that starts the season on November 1 is needed because new research on DNR

properties has shown that the rabbit breeding season runs from mid-February through September, with some young born or in nests through mid-October. This change would also make the hunting dates on public and private land concurrent. The starting date of November 1 would allow rabbit hunters an additional weekend to hunt prior to the start of the deer firearms season, and would start the season after the average first frost for 86 of 92 counties, curbing issues with parasites. The change in the starting date of rabbit hunting to November 1 also aligns with the proposed opening of the ring-necked pheasant and bobwhite quail seasons.

312 IAC 9-4-9, Bobwhite quail season, bag limit, and zones

By starting the south zone on November 1 and ending on January 10, the length of the south zone season will consistently run 71 days. The earlier starting date of November 1 for both the north and south zones would provide for a consistent statewide starting date and would also be proactive in reducing the potential for additive mortality without reducing season length. The change in the north and south zones fit both climate data and research/monitoring data more appropriately than the current boundary. Furthermore, the starting date of November 1 would allow quail hunters an additional weekend to hunt prior to the start of the deer firearms season, and would start the season after the average first frost for 86 of 92 counties.

312 IAC 9-7-6, Black bass

Scales Lake has been intensively managed and surveyed by the DNR since the early 1990's. Numerous Fish Management Reports have been written by the DNR's District 6 Fisheries Biologist, with the most recent ones being in 2006 and 2007. An angler creel survey was also conducted in 2001 which determined angler preferences and catch. The vast majority of the anglers preferred fishing for bluegill (60%) versus other species; hence, the fishery is being managed for the best bluegill and redear sunfish fishing possible. To ensure good fishing for panfish, it is imperative to protect the largemouth bass population to increase the number of predators in the lake. This would be done by switching the current 12 to 15 inch protective slot limit back to a 14 inch minimum length limit. An increase in predators will also help control gizzard shad if they are illegally introduced as seen in other area lakes (Patoka Lake, Lincoln Lake, Vann Park Pond). If gizzard shad are introduced and are able to take hold they would out-compete bluegill to the point that it would ruin the bluegill fishery.

EXHIBIT D**(Revises only the archery release devices at 312 IAC 9-3-3(b)(5)(A))****TITLE 312 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION****Final Rule**

LSA Document #12-670(F)

DIGEST

Amends 312 IAC 9-2-14 to clarify license exemptions with respect to estates and trusts. Adds 312 IAC 9-2-15 governing the use of hunter orange on ground blinds. Amends 312 IAC 9-3-2 to clarify and add hunter orange and license requirements for hunting deer. Amends 312 IAC 9-3-3 addressing equipment for hunting deer during the archery season and primitive muzzleloader season. Amends 312 IAC 9-3-4 by adding a primitive muzzleloader season and lengthening the archery season. Amends 312 IAC 9-3-14.5 governing possession of furbearing mammals. Amends 312 IAC 9-3-15 to add the mute swan to the list of species that a resident landowner or tenant can take without a permit to protect property. Amends 312 IAC 9-3-16 governing the taking and possessing of cottontail rabbits. Amends 312 IAC 9-3-17 governing the taking and possessing of squirrels. Amends 312 IAC 9-4-2 governing the taking, possession, and sale of migratory birds and waterfowl. Amends 312 IAC 9-4-8 governing the hunting of ring-necked pheasants. Amends 312 IAC 9-4-9 governing hunting of northern bobwhite quail. Amends 312 IAC 9-4-14 by removing the peregrine falcon from the list of endangered species. Amends 312 IAC 9-7-6 governing the taking and possession of black bass. Amends 312 IAC 9-7-12 governing the taking and possession of walleye. Amends 312 IAC 9-7-14 to remove lake whitefish from the list of fish for which there is no bag limit, possession limit, or size limit and adding requirements relating to roe from bowfin. Amends 312 IAC 9-7-20 by adding requirements relating to roe from shovelnose sturgeon. Adds 312 IAC 9-7-21 governing the taking of lake whitefish. Amends 312 IAC 9-9-4 by adding the round hickorynut to the list of endangered species of invertebrates. Effective 30 days after filing with the Publisher.

312 IAC 9-2-14; 312 IAC 9-2-15; 312 IAC 9-3-2; 312 IAC 9-3-3; 312 IAC 9-3-4; 312 IAC 9-3-14.5; 312 IAC 9-3-15; 312 IAC 9-3-16; 312 IAC 9-3-17; 312 IAC 9-4-2; 312 IAC 9-4-8; 312 IAC 9-4-9; 312 IAC 9-4-14; 312 IAC 9-7-6; 312 IAC 9-7-12; 312 IAC 9-7-14; 312 IAC 9-7-20; 312 IAC 9-7-21; 312 IAC 9-9-4

SECTION 1. 312 IAC 9-2-14 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-2-14 Fishing, hunting, and trapping without a license by owners and lessees of farmland

Authority: IC 14-22-6-1; IC 14-22-11-1

Affected: IC 14-22; IC 29-1-1-3; IC 30-4-1-2

Sec. 1. (a) An owner or a lessee of farmland, and immediate family members ~~of~~ **that live with** the owner or lessee, if exempted under IC 14-22-11-1, may:

(1) fish;

(2) hunt; or
(3) trap;
on the farmland without obtaining a license under this article.

(b) As used in this section, "owner" means ~~either:~~ **an individual:**

(1) ~~an individual~~ listed on the tax assessment roll and whose name appears on the title to the property;

(2) ~~who is a business entity whose shareholders, partners, members,~~ **shareholder, partner, member,** or ~~owners are owner of a business entity~~ comprised solely of the members of an immediate family; **or**

(3) **serving as a trustee and any named trust beneficiaries that are comprised solely of the members of an immediate family for trust property as defined in IC 30-4-1-2.**

The term does not include an individual that is an heir to an estate as defined in IC 29-1-1-3.

(c) As used in this section, "lessee" means either:

(1) an individual to whom a lease is made for the farmland and who farms that land; **or**

(2) a business entity to which a lease is made for the farmland and whose shareholders, partners, members, or owners are comprised solely of the members of an immediate family who farm that land.

(d) As used in this section, "business entity" means **the following:**

(1) A corporation.

(2) A limited liability company.

(3) A partnership. ~~or~~

(4) Any legal entity organized for a profitable or charitable purpose.

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-2-14; filed Jun 23, 2006, 2:24 p.m.: 20060719-IR-312050214FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA)

SECTION 2. 312 IAC 9-2-15 IS ADDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-2-15 General requirements for hunter orange on ground blinds

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22-38-7

Sec. 15. An occupied ground blind must have at least one hundred forty-four (144) square inches of hunter orange that is visible on each side of the blind from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset when the hunter is required to wear hunter orange in accordance with IC 14-22-38-7 or 312 IAC 9-3-2(u). *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-2-15)*

SECTION 3. 312 IAC 9-3-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-2 General requirements and licenses for hunting deer

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22; IC 35-47-2

Sec. 2. (a) This section and sections 3 through 10 of this rule govern the:

- (1) hunting;
- (2) transportation; and
- (3) disposal;

of deer.

(b) Species of deer other than white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are exempted from the following:

- (1) This section.
- (2) Sections 3 through 9 of this rule.

An individual who claims the exemption provided under this subsection must prove the deer is other than a white-tailed deer.

(c) The licenses identified in this section are nonexclusive. An individual may apply for one (1) or more of these licenses.

(d) Except as provided under IC 14-22-11-1 and IC 14-22-11-11, an individual must not hunt deer:

- (1) unless the individual possesses a completed and signed license authorized under this section bearing the individual's name; or
- (2) with a deer license issued to another individual.

(e) A youth hunter may take a deer during the youth deer season established in section 4(b) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer with:
 - (A) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (B) a nonresident youth deer firearms license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(29);
 - (C) a nonresident youth deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(30);
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer archery license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(31);
 - (E) a nonresident youth extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (F) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);**
 - ~~(G)~~ **(H)** a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - ~~(H)~~ **(I)** a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - ~~(I)~~ **(J)** an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through ~~(F)~~ **(G)** under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or
- (2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(f) An individual may take a deer with a long bow, a recurve bow, or a compound bow during the archery season established in section 4(c) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer by bow and arrows with:

- (A) a resident deer archery license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(14);
- (B) a nonresident deer archery license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(17);
- (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
- (D) a nonresident youth deer archery license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(31);
- (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
- (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
- (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
- (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
- (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
- (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or
- (2) hunting without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(g) An individual may take a deer with a crossbow during the archery season established in section 4(c) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer with:
 - (A) a resident extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(14);
 - (B) a nonresident extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(17);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(31);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or
- (2) hunting without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(h) An individual may take a deer with a firearm during the firearms season established in section 4(e) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer by firearms with:
 - (A) a resident deer firearms license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(12);
 - (B) a nonresident deer firearms license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(15);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer firearms license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(29);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);

- (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or
 - (2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.
- (i) An individual may take a deer with a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader season established in section 4(f) of this rule only if:
- (1) issued a license to hunt deer by a muzzleloader with:
 - (A) a resident deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(13);
 - (B) a nonresident deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(16);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(30);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or
 - (2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.
- (j) **An individual may take a deer with a muzzleloader during the primitive muzzleloader season established in section 4(i) of this rule only if:**
- (1) **issued a license to hunt deer by a muzzleloader with:**
 - (A) a resident deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(13);**
 - (B) a nonresident deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(16);**
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);**
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(30);**
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);**
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);**
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);**
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);**
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or**
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or**

(2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

~~(j)~~ **(k)** An individual may take a deer during the urban deer season established in section 4(d) of this rule only if:

(1) issued a license to hunt deer with:

- (A) a resident extra urban deer zone license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
- (B) a nonresident extra urban deer zone license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
- (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
- (D) a nonresident youth extra urban deer zone license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
- (E) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7;
- (F) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4); or
- (G) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or

(2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

~~(k)~~ **(l)** An individual may take a deer during the special antlerless deer season established in section 4(h) of this rule only if:

(1) issued a license to hunt deer with:

- (A) a resident extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
- (B) a nonresident extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
- (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
- (D) a nonresident youth extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
- (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
- (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
- (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
- (H) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7;
- (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4); or
- (J) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or

(2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

~~(l)~~ **(m)** An individual may take an antlerless deer in a designated county, by authority of an extra deer bonus antlerless license, only as authorized under section 4(g) and 4(h) of this rule.

~~(m)~~ **(n)** An individual must, immediately upon taking a deer, record on a piece of paper the following:

- (1) The name and address of the individual who took the deer.
- (2) The license number (if applicable) of the individual who took the deer.
- (3) The sex of the deer.
- (4) The month and day the deer was taken.

The individual that takes the deer must retain possession of the completed piece of paper until the paper is attached to the deer. The piece of paper must be attached to the deer if the individual who takes the deer does not maintain direct physical control of and constant visual contact with the deer carcass.

~~(n)~~ (o) An individual who takes a deer must cause delivery of the deer carcass to an official checking station for registration in the name of the individual who took the deer or cause the reporting of the take by providing the information required by the department's electronic harvest reporting system on the occurrence of the earlier of the following:

- (1) Within forty-eight (48) hours of the taking of the deer.
- (2) Before the deer is removed from this state.

The individual who delivers the deer carcass to an official checking station for registration or reports the take on the department's electronic harvest reporting system must provide true and accurate information that includes the information on the piece of paper described in subsection ~~(m)~~. (n).

~~(o)~~ (p) The head of a deer must remain attached to the carcass until the deer is registered either at an official checking station or through the department's electronic harvest reporting system.

~~(p)~~ (q) When a deer is registered, **the following:**

(1) At an official deer checking station, the checking station operator must record the permanent seal number on the log, collect the piece of paper described in subsection ~~(m)~~, (n), and give the seal to the individual. The individual must immediately affix the seal:

- (A) between a tendon and bone;
- (B) through a section of skin or flesh; or
- (C) around a branched antler;

to prevent its removal (without cutting the seal or the body part to which it is affixed). The seal must be maintained until processing of the deer begins.

(2) Using the department's electronic harvest reporting system, the individual who took the deer must record the confirmation number on the piece of paper described in subsection ~~(m)~~. (n). This confirmation number must be maintained with the deer until processing of the deer begins.

~~(q)~~ (r) The checking station operator must do the following:

- (1) Accurately and legibly complete all forms provided by the department.
- (2) Make those forms available to department personnel upon request.

~~(r)~~ (s) The permanent seal issued by the checking station or the department's electronic harvest confirmation number must be maintained with a deer that is gifted to another individual until processing of the deer begins.

~~(s)~~ (t) An individual must not hunt deer except from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

~~(t)~~ (u) An individual must wear hunter orange:

- (1) in a season set forth in section 4(b), 4(e), 4(f), and ~~4(h)~~ **4(i)** of this rule;
- (2) in that portion of the archery season set forth in section 4(c) of this rule that overlaps a season set forth in section **4(b)**, 4(e), 4(f), ~~and 4(h)~~, **and 4(i)** of this rule; ~~and~~
- (3) when firearms are authorized under section 8(b) of this rule;
- (4) in that portion of the urban deer season set forth in section 4(d) of this rule that overlaps a season and is in a location where hunting is authorized in section 4(b), 4(e), 4(f), 4(h), and 4(i) of this rule; and**
- (5) in the special antlerless season in the locations where the season is authorized in section 4(h) of this rule.**

~~(u) A ground blind that is:~~

~~(1) occupied must contain a minimum of one hundred forty-four (144) square inches of material on each side that is solid hunter orange and is visible from any direction during:~~

~~(A) a season set forth in section 4(b), 4(e), 4(f), and 4(h) of this rule; and~~

~~(B) that portion of the archery season set forth in section 4(e) of this rule that overlaps a season set forth in section 4(e), 4(f), and 4(h) of this rule;~~

~~(2) left unoccupied on department property must visibly bear the name and address of the owner written in the English language in a conspicuous location on the outside of the blind near the entrance.~~

(v) An individual must not take more than one (1) antlered deer during the special youth, archery, firearm, and muzzleloader seasons authorized in section 4 of this rule from the first day of the special youth deer season of one (1) calendar year through the last day of the archery season in the following calendar year.

(w) An individual must not hunt deer with the use or aid of:

(1) bait, which includes:

(A) a food that is transported and placed for consumption, including, but not limited to, piles of corn and apples placed in the field;

(B) a prepared solid or liquid that is manufactured and intended for consumption by livestock or wild deer, including, but not limited to, commercial baits and food supplements;

(C) salt; or

(D) mineral supplements;

(2) snares;

(3) dogs; or

(4) other domesticated animals.

The use of manufactured scents and lures or similar chemical or natural attractants is not prohibited.

(x) An area is considered baited for ten (10) days after the removal of the bait and the baited soil. Hunting an area, such as an orchard, which may be attractive to deer as the result of normal agricultural activity, is not prohibited.

(y) Notwithstanding subsection (w), an individual may use dogs only while on a leash to track or trail wounded deer.

(z) Notwithstanding subsection (w), an individual may use:

- (1) donkeys;
- (2) mules; and
- (3) horses;

for transportation to and from a hunt but not while hunting.

(aa) An individual must not hunt white-tailed deer possessed under the authority of a game breeder license under 312 IAC 9-10-4.

(bb) An individual may possess a handgun in accordance with IC 35-47 while hunting deer.

(cc) "Deer license bundle" means a multiple privilege deer license that **replaces a valid deer hunting license and** allows an individual to take one (1) antlered deer and two (2) antlerless deer or three (3) antlerless deer **in accordance with this section and sections 3 and 4 of this rule** in the **following seasons combined in one (1) year:**

- (1) Special youth.
- (2) Archery.
- (3) Firearms.
- (4) Muzzleloader. ~~and~~
- (5) Special antlerless only.
- (6) Primitive muzzleloader.**

~~seasons combined in one (1) year in accordance with the provisions in this section and sections 3 and 4 of this rule.~~ (Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-2; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2702; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1528; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 536; filed May 12, 2006, 10:38 a.m.: 29 IR 3344; filed Jun 23, 2006, 2:24 p.m.: 20060719-IR-312050214FRA; errata filed Jul 21, 2006, 1:56 p.m.: 20060802-IR-312050214ACA; filed Jul 10, 2007, 2:09 p.m.: 20070808-IR-312060572FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Nov 3, 2009, 3:34 p.m.: 20091202-IR-312090044FRA; filed Dec 1, 2011, 4:01 p.m.: 20111228-IR-312110101FRA; errata filed Jan 10, 2012, 1:19 p.m.: 20120125-IR-312120006ACA; filed Jul 9, 2012, 3:00 p.m.: 20120808-IR-312120065FRA; filed Dec 18, 2012, 2:00 p.m.: 20130116-IR-312120115FRA)

SECTION 4. 312 IAC 9-3-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22; IC 35-47-2

Sec. 3. (a) During the youth special deer season established in section 4(b) of this rule, a youth hunter must hunt deer only with the following equipment:

- (1) A bow and arrow as described in subsection (b)(1) through (b)(5).
- (2) A crossbow as defined in 312 IAC 9-1-5.3.
- (3) A shotgun as described in subsection (d)(1).
- (4) A muzzleloading long gun as described in subsection (d)(3).

(5) A rifle, with the use of cartridges described in subsection (d)(4).

(b) During the archery season established in section 4(c) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with ~~the following~~ equipment **as follows:**

(1) **With** a long bow, **recurve bow**, or compound bow that has at least thirty-five (35) pounds pull with a valid license identified at section 2(f) of this rule.

(2) **From October 1 through the first Sunday in January with** a crossbow with a valid license identified at section 2(g) of this rule.

(3) Arrows or bolts must be equipped with metal or metal-edged (or flint, chert, or obsidian napped) broadheads.

(4) Poisoned or explosive arrows or bolts are unlawful.

(5) For long bows, recurve bows, and compound bows:

(A) bows drawn, held, or released other than by hand or hand-held releases are unlawful **except from October 1 through the first Sunday in January;** and

(B) no portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any:

(i) track;

(ii) trough;

(iii) channel;

(iv) arrow rest; or

(v) other device;

that attaches to the bow's riser shall contact, support, or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height.

(c) During the firearms season established in section 4(e) of this rule and the special antlerless season established in section 4(h) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with any of the following equipment:

(1) A shotgun.

(2) A shotgun with rifled barrel.

(3) A handgun.

(4) A muzzleloading long gun.

(5) A muzzleloading handgun.

(6) A rifle, with the use of cartridges described in subsection (d)(4) only.

(d) As used in section 2 of this rule, this section, and sections 4 through 8 of this rule, a firearm must meet the following specifications:

(1) A shotgun must have a gauge 10, 12, 16, 20, or .410 bore loaded with a single projectile.

(2) A handgun must:

(A) conform to the requirements of IC 35-47-2;

(B) have a barrel at least four (4) inches long;

(C) fire a bullet of two hundred forty-three thousandths (.243) inch diameter or larger; and

(D) not be a rifle that has a barrel less than eighteen (18) inches or is designed or redesigned to be fired from the shoulder.

The handgun cartridge case, without bullet, must be at least one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches long. Full metal jacketed bullets are unlawful. All 25/20, 32/20, 30 carbine, and 38 special ammunition is prohibited.

(3) A muzzleloading long gun must be .44 caliber or larger, loaded with a bullet at least three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) inch or larger. A muzzleloading handgun must be single shot, .50 caliber or larger, loaded with bullets at least .44 caliber and have a barrel at least twelve (12) inches long. The length of a muzzleloading handgun barrel is determined by measuring from the base of the breech plug, excluding tangs and other projections, to the end of the barrel, including the muzzle crown. A muzzleloading gun must be capable of being loaded only from the muzzle, including both powder and bullet.

(4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications:

(A) Fire a bullet of three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) of an inch diameter or larger.

(B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.

(C) Have a maximum case length of one and eight-tenths (1.8) inches.

~~(5) Over and under combination rifle shotguns are prohibited.~~

(e) During the muzzleloader season established in section 4(f) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with a:

(1) muzzleloading long gun as described in subsection (d)(3); or

(2) muzzleloading handgun as described in subsection (d)(3).

(f) During the primitive muzzleloader season established in section 4(i) of this rule, an individual may hunt deer only with a muzzleloading long gun as follows:

(1) Fire black powder or black powder substitute.

(2) Have a traditional, external side-hammer design.

(3) Be capable of being loaded only from the muzzle.

(4) Have a caliber of at least .45.

(5) Be loaded with a bullet at least four hundred forty-thousandths (.440) of an inch diameter.

(6) Have an ignition system that is flintlock or caplock.

(7) Use a lead round ball or lead conical bullet without plastic or other sabot.

(8) Have traditional-style open sights (fixed or adjustable v-notched rear sight, buckhorn rear sight, metallic rear peep sight, and post or blade front sight).

(9) Not have telescopic or other sights that incorporate glass or electronics.

~~(f)~~ **(g)** During the urban deer season established in section 4(d) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer with bows and arrows described in section 3(b) of this rule.

~~(g)~~ **(h)** An individual must not erect, place, or hunt from a permanent tree or ground blind on state owned lands. A tree or ground blind placed on:

(1) a DNR property as defined at 312 IAC 8-1-4(3);

(2) U.S. Forest Service lands; or

(3) any national wildlife refuge;

must be portable and may be left overnight only between September 1 and January 10. A fastener used in conjunction with a tree blind and a tree or pole climber that penetrates a tree

more than one-half (1/2) inch is prohibited. Each tree or ground blind must be legibly marked with the name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the blind in the English language.

~~(h)~~ (i) An individual must not use infrared sensors to locate or take deer. An individual must not hunt or retrieve deer with the aid of an infrared detector.

~~(h)~~ (j) An individual must not possess or use an electronic deer call while hunting deer. *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-3; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2703; filed Nov 13, 1997, 12:09 p.m.: 21 IR 1272; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1530; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 538; filed Jun 23, 2006, 2:24 p.m.: 20060719-IR-312050214FRA; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:30 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060272FRA; filed Sep 6, 2007, 12:20 p.m.: 20071003-IR-312070023FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Nov 3, 2009, 3:34 p.m.: 20091202-IR-312090044FRA; filed Dec 1, 2011, 4:01 p.m.: 20111228-IR-312110101FRA)*

SECTION 5. 312 IAC 9-3-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-4 Season dates and bag limits

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 4. (a) An individual must not take more than one (1) deer with each deer license.

(b) The special youth deer season is two (2) consecutive days beginning on the Saturday immediately before October 1 or as approved annually by the director.

(1) The seasonal limit for hunting deer under this subsection is one (1) antlered deer and the number of antlerless deer established under subsection (g) for the county being hunted.

(2) A youth hunter who takes an antlered deer under this subsection may not take another antlered deer during the:

(A) archery seasons established in subsection (c);

(B) firearm season established in subsection (e); or

(C) muzzleloader season established in subsection (f).

(3) As used in this section, "youth" means an individual who is less than eighteen (18) years of age by the date of the hunt.

(4) A youth who hunts a deer under this subsection must be accompanied by an adult of at least eighteen (18) years of age who:

(A) does not possess a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow while in the field;

(B) possesses a valid hunting license of any type that is not an apprentice license;

(C) must not accompany more than two (2) youth hunters at any one (1) time; and

(D) must be in close proximity and able to communicate with the youth hunter at all times.

(c) The archery deer season is from ~~October 1~~ **September 15** through the first Sunday in January. An individual must take not more than two (2) deer of which only one (1) may be antlered under this subsection.

(d) The urban deer season is as follows:

(1) From September 15 through January 31 of the following year in an urban deer zone.

(2) Under this subsection:

(A) An individual must take not more than four (4) deer of which only one (1) may be antlered.

(B) At least one (1) antlerless deer must be taken in an urban deer zone prior to taking an antlered deer.

(3) A deer taken under this subsection does not count against a bag limit for deer set elsewhere in this rule.

(4) The following areas have been designated as urban deer zones subject to the urban deer season:

(A) The Indianapolis urban deer zone includes the following:

(i) All of Marion County.

(ii) That portion of Hendricks County east of State Highway 267.

(iii) The southeast portion of Boone County as bounded by the following:

(AA) State Highway 267.

(BB) Interstate Highway 65.

(CC) State Highway 32.

(iv) That portion of Hamilton County south of State Highway 32.

(B) The Fort Wayne urban deer zone includes that portion of Allen County lying within the bounds of Interstate Highway 69 and State Highway 469.

(C) The Evansville urban deer zone includes all of Vanderburgh County.

(D) The Lafayette urban deer zone includes the portion of Tippecanoe County north of State Highway 28.

(E) The Lake County urban deer zone includes all of Lake County.

(F) The Porter County urban deer zone includes all of Porter County.

(G) The Michigan City urban deer zone includes that portion of LaPorte County north of U.S. Highway 94.

(H) The Warsaw urban deer zone includes the portion of Kosciusko County within the corporate limits of the city of Warsaw.

(e) The firearms deer season is from the first Saturday after November 11 and continues for an additional fifteen (15) days. An individual must take not more than one (1) antlered deer under this subsection.

(f) The deer hunting season for only using a muzzleloading long gun or muzzleloading handgun is from the first Saturday after the closing day of firearms season as established in subsection (e) and continues for an additional fifteen (15) days. An individual must not take more than one (1) deer of either sex under this subsection.

(g) The season and bag limit for hunting antlerless deer in a designated county, by authority of an extra deer bonus antlerless license, shall be established on an annual basis by a temporary rule authorized by the director.

(h) The special antlerless deer season is from December 26 through the first Sunday in January of the following year in counties with an antlerless quota of four (4) or more deer. An individual may take only antlerless deer under this subsection and may take only the number established under subsection (g) for the county being hunted.

(i) The primitive muzzleloader season is from the first Monday in January and continues for an additional six (6) consecutive days. An individual must not take more than one (1) deer of either sex under this subsection and subsection (f) combined. *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-4; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2703; filed Nov 5, 1997, 3:25 p.m.: 21 IR 930; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1530; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 538; filed May 25, 2005, 10:15 a.m.: 28 IR 2945; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:30 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060272FRA; filed Jul 10, 2007, 2:09 p.m.: 20070808-IR-312060572FRA; filed Sep 6, 2007, 12:20 p.m.: 20071003-IR-312070023FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Nov 3, 2009, 3:34 p.m.: 20091202-IR-312090044FRA; filed Nov 12, 2009, 3:53 p.m.: 20091209-IR-312090060FRA; filed Dec 1, 2011, 4:01 p.m.: 20111228-IR-312110101FRA)*

SECTION 6. 312 IAC 9-3-14.5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-14.5 Possession of furbearing mammals

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22-20

Sec. 14.5. (a) An individual must not possess the untanned hide or unprocessed carcass of any of the following species that have been lawfully taken except as authorized under subsection (d):

- (1) Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).
- (2) Gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*).
- (3) Striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*).
- (4) Beaver (*Castor canadensis*).
- (5) Mink (*Mustela vison*).
- (6) Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*).
- (7) Long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*).
- (8) Virginia opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*).
- (9) Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

(b) Notwithstanding subsections (e), (g), and (h), an individual may possess a live furbearing mammal under one (1) of the following:

- (1) A game breeder license in compliance with IC 14-22-20 and 312 IAC 9-10-4.
- (2) A wild animal possession permit in compliance with 312 IAC 9-11.
- (3) A wild animal rehabilitation permit in compliance with 312 IAC 9-10-9.
- (4) A scientific purposes license in compliance with 312 IAC 9-10-6.
- (5) A nuisance wild animal control permit in compliance with 312 IAC 9-10-11.
- (6) A registered or licensed educational or scientific institution with the United States Department of Agriculture in accordance with 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts I through IV.

(7) A breeder or dealer license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture under 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts I through IV.

(8) A hunting or trapping license during the season established in this rule for that species.

(c) An individual ~~must not~~ **may** sell a live furbearing mammal ~~except:~~ **only:**

(1) during the hunting and trapping season established in this rule for that species **with a hunting or trapping license;** or

(2) with a valid game breeder license in compliance with IC 14-22-20 and 312 IAC 9-10-4.

(d) An individual may possess the untanned hide or unprocessed carcass of a furbearing mammal listed in subsection (a) as follows:

(1) During the hunting and trapping season established in this rule for that species.

(2) Until May 15 of the year the hunting or trapping season closed as established in this rule for that species.

(3) Until June 15 of the year the hunting and trapping season closed for that species if the individual submits a report to the department by May 15 on a signed departmental form that lists the number of untanned hides and unprocessed carcasses possessed by species and not sold to a licensed fur buyer.

(4) With a valid fur buyer's license in compliance with IC 14-22-19 and 312 IAC 9-10-12.

(5) With a valid taxidermy license in compliance with IC 14-22-21 and 312 IAC 9-10-5.

(6) With a valid special purpose salvage permit in compliance with 312 IAC 9-10-13.5.

(e) Except as authorized in subsection (g), an individual who traps a furbearing mammal must either:

(1) release the furbearing mammal into the wild in the county in which it was captured within twenty-four (24) hours of capture; ~~or~~

(2) euthanize the furbearing mammal immediately after removal from the trap or transport from the trap site; **or**

(3) sell, gift, barter, trade, or otherwise transfer the furbearing mammal to another individual within twenty-four (24) hours of capture.

(f) A captive furbearing mammal that is being transported must be properly handled in an expeditious manner to prevent unnecessary physical injury **to the furbearing mammal.**

(g) An individual who lawfully takes a:

(1) raccoon;

(2) red fox;

(3) gray fox; or

(4) coyote;

during the trapping season for that species may possess that animal live in captivity during the remainder of the trapping season for that species only as provided in subsections (f) and (h).

(h) After removal from a trap and transport from the trap site, an individual possessing a furbearing mammal under subsection (g) must do the following:

(1) Confine the mammal in a cage or other enclosure as follows:

(A) A cage or other enclosure that:

- (i) makes escape of the mammal unlikely and prevents the entrance of a free-roaming mammal of the same species;
- (ii) is structurally sound;
- (iii) is of sufficient strength for the species involved;
- (iv) is maintained in good repair and smoothly secured to prevent escape or injury to the mammal in the enclosure;
- (v) is constructed to allow sufficient space for individual posture, to turn about freely, and to make normal social movements;
- (vi) is secured when unattended with protective devices at entrances and exits to prevent escapes if kept outdoors and if needed to prevent injuries to human or the mammal's health; and
- (vii) has ambient ventilation by means of windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning to protect the health of the mammal and to minimize drafts, odors, and condensation.

(B) Night quarters, transportation cages, and nesting boxes may not be used as primary housing.

(C) Surface water must be adequately drained from a cage or enclosure where the mammal is housed.

(D) Adequate lighting shall be provided by artificial or natural means and cycled for appropriate photoperiod, if necessary for the mammal in possession.

(2) Provide the following for the comfort of the particular species of mammal:

(A) Fresh, clean drinking water in clean containers on a daily basis.

(B) Appropriate and adequate food that is as follows:

- (i) Unspoiled.
- (ii) Uncontaminated.
- (iii) Appropriate to the dietary needs of the mammal.
- (iv) Of sufficient quantity for the mammal involved.
- (v) Provided on a daily basis.

(C) Adequate shelter from the elements.

(D) Adequate shade.

(3) Remove and dispose of food wastes, feces, urine, and bedding from the enclosure and premises daily to maintain sanitary conditions and protect the mammal and human health.

(4) Remove trash, garbage, debris, and carcasses from the enclosure as soon as they are observed and appropriately disposed of.

(5) Either:

(i) (A) euthanize a mammal possessed under this section no later than the last day of the season for that species; or

(ii) (B) apply for a game breeder license under IC 14-22-20 and 312 IAC 9-10-4 **or wild animal possession permit under IC 14-22-20 and 312 IAC 9-11** within five (5) days after the close of the season for that species.

(6) Make a mammal possessed under this section available for inspection by a conservation officer upon request.

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-14.5; filed Apr 4, 2008, 2:56 p.m.: 20080430-IR-312070659FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Mar 12, 2010, 1:28 p.m.: 20100407-IR-312090479FRA; filed Jul 5, 2011, 1:37 p.m.: 20110803-IR-312100614FRA)

SECTION 7. 312 IAC 9-3-15 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-15 Taking beavers, minks, muskrats, long-tailed weasels, red foxes, gray foxes, opossums, skunks, raccoons, squirrels, or mute swans to protect property

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 15. (a) Notwithstanding the requirements of this rule, a resident landowner or a tenant may, without a permit at any time, take:

- (1) a beaver;
- (2) a mink;
- (3) a muskrat;
- (4) a long-tailed weasel;
- (5) a red fox;
- (6) a gray fox;
- (7) an opossum;
- (8) a skunk;
- (9) a raccoon;
- (10) a fox squirrel; ~~or~~
- (11) a gray squirrel; **or**
- (12) a mute swan;**

that is discovered while damaging property.

(b) An individual who takes a ~~mammal~~ **wild animal** under subsection (a) must **comply with section 18 of this rule and do one (1) of the following:**

- (1) Release the ~~mammal~~ **wild animal** on land in the county where the ~~mammal~~ **wild animal** was captured only with permission of the landowner or property manager. ~~or~~
- (2) Euthanize the ~~mammal~~ **wild animal** within twenty-four (24) hours of capture.

(c) An individual who takes a ~~mammal~~ **wild animal** under subsection (a) must not do the following:

- (1) Possess the ~~mammal~~ **wild animal** for more than twenty-four (24) hours.
- (2) Sell, trade, barter, or gift the ~~mammal~~ **wild animal**.

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-15; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2707; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 540; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Mar 12, 2010, 1:28 p.m.: 20100407-IR-312090479FRA; filed Jul 5, 2011, 1:37 p.m.: 20110803-IR-312100614FRA)

SECTION 8. 312 IAC 9-3-16 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-16 Cottontail rabbits

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 16. (a) ~~Except as provided in subsection (e),~~ An individual may take eastern cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) from the first Friday of November after November 3 1 through February 15 28 of the following year.

(b) An individual may take not more than five (5) eastern cottontail rabbits per day.

(c) ~~An individual may take eastern cottontail rabbits from October 1 through January 31 of the following year within the boundaries of the following:~~

(1) ~~The following state fish and wildlife areas managed by the division of fish and wildlife:~~

- ~~(A) Atterbury.~~
- ~~(B) Blue Grass.~~
- ~~(C) Brush Creek.~~
- ~~(D) Chinook.~~
- ~~(E) Crosley.~~
- ~~(F) Fairbanks Landing.~~
- ~~(G) Glendale.~~
- ~~(H) Hillenbrand.~~
- ~~(I) Hovey Lake.~~
- ~~(J) Jasper-Pulaski.~~
- ~~(K) Kankakee.~~
- ~~(L) Kingsbury.~~
- ~~(M) LaSalle.~~
- ~~(N) Minnehaha.~~
- ~~(O) Splinter Ridge.~~
- ~~(P) Sugar Ridge.~~
- ~~(Q) Pigeon River.~~
- ~~(R) Tri-County.~~
- ~~(S) Wilbur Wright.~~
- ~~(T) Willow Slough.~~
- ~~(U) Winamac.~~

(2) ~~The following lake properties managed by the division of state parks and reservoirs:~~

- ~~(A) Brookville.~~
- ~~(B) Hardy.~~
- ~~(C) J. Edward Roush.~~
- ~~(D) Mississinewa.~~
- ~~(E) Monroe.~~
- ~~(F) Patoka.~~
- ~~(G) Salamonie.~~

~~(d)~~ (c) An individual must not do the following:

(1) Hunt rabbits unless that person wears hunter orange.

(2) Remove, dislodge, or attempt to remove or dislodge a rabbit from a hole, den, cavity, or tree hollow with the aid of any of the following:

- (A) A ferret or other small animal.
- (B) A mechanical device.
- (C) A chemical.
- (D) Smoke.
- (E) Fire.
- (F) A fume.

~~(e)~~ **(d)** A person must not possess a live eastern cottontail rabbit outside the season established in ~~subsections~~ **subsection** (a) ~~and (e)~~ except with one (1) of the following:

- (1) A game breeder license under 312 IAC 9-10-4.
- (2) A wild animal possession permit under 312 IAC 9-11.
- (3) A wild animal rehabilitation permit under 312 IAC 9-10-9.
- (4) A scientific purposes license under 312 IAC 9-10-6.
- (5) A nuisance wild animal control permit under 312 IAC 9-10-11.
- (6) An educational or scientific institution registered or licensed with the United States Department of Agriculture in accordance with 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts I through IV.
- (7) A breeder or dealer license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture under 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts I through IV.

~~(f)~~ **(e)** An individual who lawfully takes a rabbit may give to another individual one (1) or more carcasses of a rabbit, with no compensation of any kind. A rabbit that is gifted must have a tag attached that contains the following information:

- (1) The hunter's name and address.
- (2) The total number of rabbits taken.
- (3) The date the rabbit was taken.
- (4) The signature of the hunter who took the rabbit.

~~(g)~~ **(f)** A carcass of an eastern cottontail rabbit may be possessed by the following:

- (1) The individual who lawfully took the eastern cottontail rabbit during the ~~seasons~~ **season** established in ~~subsections~~ **subsection** (a). ~~and (e)~~.
- (2) An individual who received the carcass under subsection ~~(f)~~: **(e)**.
- (3) An individual with a valid taxidermy license under IC 14-22-21 and 312 IAC 9-10-5.
- (4) An individual with a valid scientific purposes license under 312 IAC 9-10-6.
- (5) An individual with a valid nuisance wild animal control permit under 312 IAC 9-10-11.
- (6) An individual with a valid special purpose salvage permit under 312 IAC 9-10-13.5.

~~(h)~~ **(g)** A person must not sell a live eastern cottontail rabbit except under a valid game breeder license under IC 14-22-20 and 312 IAC 9-10-4. *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-16; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2707; readopted filed July 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Jan 8, 2007, 9:11 a.m.: 20070207-IR-312060193FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Mar 12, 2010, 1:28 p.m.: 20100407-IR-312090479FRA)*

SECTION 9. 312 IAC 9-3-17 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-17 Squirrels

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22-20; IC 14-22-21

Sec. 17. (a) An individual may hunt eastern gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger*) from August 15 through January 31 of the following year.

(b) ~~An~~ **The bag limit for each** individual ~~may take~~ **is** not more than five (5) eastern gray squirrels and five (5) fox squirrels per day, in aggregate.

(c) Unless hunting from a boat, an individual hunting squirrels from ~~the first Friday after~~ November ~~3~~ **1** through January 31 of the following year must wear hunter orange.

(d) An individual must not shoot into or otherwise disturb the leaf nest or den of a squirrel.

(e) An individual must not take a southern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*) **except with a:**

- (1) wild animal rehabilitation permit under 312 IAC 9-10-9;**
- (2) scientific purposes license under 312 IAC 9-10-6; or**
- (3) nuisance wild animal control permit under 312 IAC 9-10-11.**

(f) A person must not possess a live squirrel established in subsection (a) except with one (1) of the following:

- (1) A game breeder license under IC 14-22-20 and 312 IAC 9-10-4.
- (2) A wild animal possession permit under 312 IAC 9-11.
- (3) A wild animal rehabilitation permit under 312 IAC 9-10-9.
- (4) A scientific purposes license under 312 IAC 9-10-6.
- (5) A nuisance wild animal control permit under 312 IAC 9-10-11.
- (6) An educational or scientific institution registered or licensed with the United States Department of Agriculture in accordance with 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts I through IV.
- (7) A breeder or dealer license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture under 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts I through IV.

(g) A person must not possess a live southern flying squirrel except with one (1) of the following:

- (1) A wild animal possession permit under 312 IAC 9-11.
- (2) A wild animal rehabilitation permit under 312 IAC 9-10-9.
- (3) A scientific purposes license under 312 IAC 9-10-6.
- (4) A nuisance wild animal control permit under 312 IAC 9-10-11.
- (5) An educational or scientific institution registered or licensed with the United States Department of Agriculture in accordance with 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts I through IV.

(6) A breeder or dealer license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture under 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts I through IV.

(h) An individual who lawfully takes a squirrel may give to another individual one (1) or more carcasses of a squirrel, with no compensation of any kind. A squirrel that is gifted must have a tag attached that contains the following information:

- (1) The hunter's name and address.
- (2) The total number of squirrels taken.
- (3) The date the squirrel was taken.
- (4) The signature of the hunter who took the squirrel.

(i) A carcass of a squirrel may be possessed by the following:

- (1) The individual who lawfully took the squirrel during the seasons established in subsections (a) and (c).
- (2) An individual who received the carcass under subsection ~~(f)~~ **(h)**.
- (3) An individual with a valid taxidermy license under IC 14-22-21 and 312 IAC 9-10-5.
- (4) An individual with a valid scientific purposes license under 312 IAC 9-10-6.
- (5) An individual with a valid nuisance wild animal control permit under 312 IAC 9-10-11.
- (6) An individual with a valid special purpose salvage permit under 312 IAC 9-10-13.5.

(j) A person must not sell a live squirrel listed in subsection (a) except under a valid game breeder license under IC 14-22-20 and 312 IAC 9-10-4. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-17; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2707; filed Nov 13, 1997, 12:09 p.m.: 21 IR 1272; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3714; errata filed Aug 25, 1998, 3:02 p.m.: 22 IR 125; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 540; filed Jan 8, 2007, 9:11 a.m.: 20070207-IR-312060193FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Mar 12, 2010, 1:28 p.m.: 20100407-IR-312090479FRA*)

SECTION 10. 312 IAC 9-4-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-4-2 General requirements for migratory birds and waterfowl

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 2. (a) The restrictions in this rule supplement state statutes and federal laws that protect migratory birds and waterfowl.

(b) The:

- (1) annual seasons;
- (2) bag limits;
- (3) hunting restrictions; and
- (4) shooting hours;

for migratory birds and waterfowl are as determined under 50 CFR 20.

(c) An individual must not hunt migratory birds and waterfowl, except for mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) **and Eurasian collared doves (*Streptopella decaocto*)**, unless the individual:

- (1) is registered with; and
 - (2) possesses an identification number issued through;
- the Harvest Information Program.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (c), a resident youth hunter participating in a free hunting day for youth hunters as designated by the director is exempt from:

- (1) registration with; and
 - (2) possession of an identification number issued through;
- the Harvest Information Program.

(e) For purposes of youth free hunting days under IC 14-22-11-18, a youth hunter means an individual who is less than eighteen (18) years of age on the date of the hunt. For purposes of the youth waterfowl season as established in 50 CFR 20.105, the age of a youth hunter is determined under 50 CFR 20.105.

(f) An individual must not take a migratory bird listed as an endangered species in this rule unless the individual possesses a scientific purposes license under 312 IAC 9-10-6.

(g) An individual must not hunt American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) unless that person wears hunter orange.

(h) An individual must not hunt waterfowl while possessing shot, other than steel shot or another nontoxic shot.

(i) An individual must not construct a hunting blind on the water of the state unless the name and address of the individual who constructs the blind is legibly indicated on the blind.

(j) An individual who constructs a hunting blind must cause the removal of the blind from the water of the state from April 1 through August 15.

(k) An individual must not:

- (1) construct or place a permanent blind; or
- (2) leave a portable blind overnight;

on property owned or leased by the department.

(l) In order to hunt waterfowl, an individual must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- (1) Possess one (1) of the following valid Indiana hunting licenses or be exempt from needing a license as authorized in IC 14-22-11-1:
 - (A) A resident yearly hunting license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(2).
 - (B) A resident yearly hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(3).
 - (C) A nonresident yearly hunting license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(6).
 - (D) A nonresident five-day hunting license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(10).
 - (E) A nonresident youth yearly hunting license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(25).

(F) A resident youth consolidated hunting and trapping license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24) or IC 14-22-11-10(b).

(G) A disabled American veteran's hunting license under IC 14-22-12-1.5.

(H) An apprentice hunting license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7.

(I) A lifetime basic hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(2).

(J) A lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4).

(K) A lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5).

(2) Possess a valid Indiana waterfowl stamp privilege issued under IC 14-22-7-4.

(m) An individual must not possess lead shot while hunting mourning doves on a department property.

(n) An individual may take Eurasian collared doves during the season for hunting mourning doves in accordance with 50 CFR 20. The bag limit for mourning doves does not apply to Eurasian collared doves that are taken as long as the head and a feathered wing are attached. The bag limit for mourning doves does include Eurasian collared doves if the head and feathered wing are not attached.

(o) An individual may take a raptor from the wild only with a:

(1) wild animal rehabilitation permit issued under 312 IAC 9-10-9;

(2) scientific purposes license issued under 312 IAC 9-10-6;

(3) falconry license issued under 312 IAC 9-10-13.1; or

(4) migratory bird depredation permit under IC 14-22-6-3.

(p) An individual may take a live migratory bird, other than a raptor, from the wild only:

(1) with a wild animal rehabilitation permit issued under 312 IAC 9-10-9;

(2) with a scientific purposes license issued under 312 IAC 9-10-6;

(3) with a migratory bird depredation permit under IC 14-22-6-3;

(4) during a hunting season as authorized in this section and 50 CFR 20;

(5) as authorized in 312 IAC 9-4-7.2 and 50 CFR 21.43 for brown-headed cowbird, common grackle, red-winged blackbird, Brewer's blackbird, or American crow taken in accordance with 312 IAC 9-4-7.2 and 50 CFR 21.43; or

(6) as authorized in subsections (t) and (u) for a Canada goose.

(q) An individual may possess, breed, and sell raptors with a raptor propagation permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with 50 CFR 21.30 without a permit from the department.

(r) A migratory bird that is taken from the wild may be possessed live only with a:

(1) wild animal rehabilitation permit issued under 312 IAC 9-10-9;

(2) special purpose educational permit issued under 312 IAC 9-10-9.5;

(3) scientific purposes license issued under 312 IAC 9-10-6; or

(4) falconry license issued under 312 IAC 9-10-13.1.

(s) An individual may possess, breed, and sell captive-bred waterfowl in accordance with 50 CFR 21 without a permit from the department.

(t) An individual may take the nest and eggs of Canada geese between March 1 and June 30 in accordance with 50 CFR 21.50 without a permit from the department.

(u) An individual may take a live Canada goose that is causing damage or threatening to cause damage to property or causing a health or safety threat to persons or domestic animals with a permit from the department.

(v) An individual may take a migratory bird that is causing damage to property or posing a health or safety threat to persons or domestic animals with a migratory bird depredation permit issued under IC 14-22-6-3. Exempted from this section is a:

- (1) Canada goose, or the nests and eggs thereof, taken in accordance with a hunting season authorized under 50 CFR 20 or subsections (t) and (u);
- (2) migratory bird taken during a hunting season in accordance with this section and 50 CFR 20; or
- (3) brown-headed cowbird, common grackle, red-winged blackbird, Brewer's blackbird, or American crow taken in accordance with 312 IAC 9-4-7.2 and 50 CFR 21.43.

(w) The nest of a migratory bird may be taken only:

- (1) in accordance with subsection (t) or (v);
- (2) with a special purpose salvage permit under 312 IAC 9-10-13.5;
- (3) with a scientific purposes license issued under 312 IAC 9-10-6; or
- (4) if unoccupied by a bird or egg and destroyed or relocated.

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-4-2; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2708; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3714; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Jun 23, 2006, 2:24 p.m.: 20060719-IR-312050214FRA; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:30 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060272FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Mar 12, 2010, 1:28 p.m.: 20100407-IR-312090479FRA; errata filed Apr 29, 2010, 3:05 p.m.: 20100512-IR-312090479ACA; filed Mar 15, 2013, 2:33 p.m.: 20130410-IR-312120403FRA)

SECTION 11. 312 IAC 9-4-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-4-8 Pheasants

Authority: IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 8. (a) Except as provided in subsection (c), an individual may hunt ring-necked pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*) from the first Friday after November 3 and continuing an additional forty-four (44) days. **1 through December 15 of that calendar year.**

(b) Except as provided in subsection ~~(d)~~, **(c)**, an individual may take two (2) cock pheasants per day.

~~(c) An individual may hunt ring-necked pheasants from:~~

- ~~(1) Atterbury;~~
- ~~(2) Crosley;~~
- ~~(3) Glendale;~~
- ~~(4) Jasper-Pulaski;~~
- ~~(5) LaSalle;~~
- ~~(6) Pigeon River (west of State Road 3);~~
- ~~(7) Tri-County;~~
- ~~(8) Willow Slough (north of County Road 100 North); and~~
- ~~(9) Winamac (south of the abandoned C & O Railroad);~~

~~Fish and Wildlife Areas and from Huntington Lake from the first Friday after November 3 through January 15 of the following year.~~

~~(d)~~ **(c)** From the Saturday before Thanksgiving through ~~January~~ **December** 15, ~~of the following year,~~ an individual may ~~take~~ **hunt** two (2) ring-necked pheasants per day of either sex on Atterbury, Crosley, Pigeon River (west of State Road 3), Tri-County, Glendale, **J.E. Roush**, Willow Slough (north of County Road 100 North), and Winamac (south of the abandoned C & O Railroad) Fish and Wildlife Areas. ~~and from Huntington Lake.~~ During the season established under this subsection, whenever applicable, a hunter must:

- (1) pay designated fees; and
- (2) hunt within assigned units.

~~(e)~~ **(d)** The head and head plumage of a ring-necked pheasant must remain attached to the carcass while the ring-necked pheasant is in transit from the site of taking. *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-4-8; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2709; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Mar 12, 2010, 1:28 p.m.: 20100407-IR-312090479FRA)*

SECTION 12. 312 IAC 9-4-9 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-4-9 Quail

Authority: IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 9. (a) An individual may hunt northern bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*) only as follows:

- (1) South of ~~State Road 26,~~ **Interstate 74**, from the first Friday after November 3 ~~1~~ through January 15 ~~10~~ of the following year.
- (2) North of ~~State Road 26,~~ **Interstate 74**, from the first Friday after November 3 ~~and continuing an additional forty-four (44) days.~~ **1 through December 15 of that calendar year.**

(b) An individual may take the following number of quail per day:

(1) ~~five (5)~~ **Four (4)** northern bobwhite quail north of ~~State Road 26; and~~ **Interstate 74.**

(2) Eight (8) northern bobwhite quail south of ~~State Road 26.~~ **Interstate 74.**

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-4-9; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2710; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3715; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Mar 12, 2010, 1:28 p.m.: 20100407-IR-312090479FRA)

SECTION 13. 312 IAC 9-4-14 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-4-14 Endangered species of birds

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6; IC 14-22-34-17

Affected: IC 14-22-34-12

Sec. 14. The following species of birds are endangered and are subject to the protections provided under IC 14-22-34-12:

- (1) American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*).
- (2) Least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*).
- (3) Black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).
- (4) Yellow-crowned night-heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*).
- (5) Trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*).
- (6) Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).
- (7) Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).
- ~~(8) Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).~~
- ~~(9)~~ (8) Black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*).
- ~~(10)~~ (9) King rail (*Rallus elegans*).
- ~~(11)~~ (10) Virginia rail (*Rallus limicola*).
- ~~(12)~~ (11) Common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*).
- ~~(13)~~ (12) Whooping crane (*Grus americana*).
- ~~(14)~~ (13) Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*).
- ~~(15)~~ (14) Upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*).
- ~~(16)~~ (15) Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*).
- ~~(17)~~ (16) Black tern (*Chlidonias niger*).
- ~~(18)~~ (17) Barn owl (*Tyto alba*).
- ~~(19)~~ (18) Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*).
- ~~(20)~~ (19) Sedge wren (*Cisothorus platensis*).
- ~~(21)~~ (20) Marsh wren (*Cisothorus palustris*).
- ~~(22)~~ (21) Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*).
- ~~(23)~~ (22) Cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*).
- ~~(24)~~ (23) Golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*).
- ~~(25)~~ (24) Kirtland's warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*).
- ~~(26)~~ (25) Henslow's sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*).
- ~~(27)~~ (26) Yellow-headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*).

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-4-14; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2712; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3717; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 2535; filed May 16, 2002, 12:25 p.m.: 25 IR 3046; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 542; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:30 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060272FRA;

filed Apr 1, 2008, 10:28 a.m.: 20080430-IR-312070735FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA)

SECTION 14. 312 IAC 9-7-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-7-6 Black bass

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 6. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual may take or possess not more than five (5) black bass in aggregate per day.

(b) An individual may take or possess not more than three (3) black bass from Lake Michigan in aggregate per day. An individual must not possess more than three (3) black bass in aggregate while fishing in or on Lake Michigan.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual must not take or possess a black bass except:

(1) if taken from rivers or streams in Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Crawford, Harrison, Floyd, Clark, Jefferson, Switzerland, Ohio, and Dearborn counties the black bass must be at least twelve (12) inches long;

(2) if taken from rivers or streams, except as stated in subdivision (1), the black bass must be greater than fifteen (15) inches long or less than twelve (12) inches long, with not more than two (2) being greater than fifteen (15) inches; or

(3) if taken from lakes or reservoirs (including Lake Michigan), the black bass must be at least fourteen (14) inches long.

(d) An individual may take or possess largemouth bass of any length in the following lakes:

(1) Brownstown Pit in Jackson County.

(2) Burdette Park Lakes in Vanderburgh County.

(3) Chandler Town Lake in Warrick County.

(4) Cypress Lake in Jackson County.

(5) Deming Park Lakes in Vigo County.

(6) Garvin Park Lake in Vanderburgh County.

(7) Glen Miller Pond in Wayne County.

(8) Hayswood Lake in Harrison County.

(9) Henry County Memorial Park Lake in Henry County.

(10) Hovey Lake in Posey County.

(11) Krannert Lake in Marion County.

(12) Lake Sullivan in Marion County.

(13) Ruster Lake in Marion County.

(14) Schnebelt Pond in Dearborn County.

(e) An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass unless the largemouth bass is less than twelve (12) inches long or more than fifteen (15) inches long from the following designated lakes:

- (1) Buffalo Trace Lake in Harrison County.
- (2) Celina Lake in Perry County.
- (3) Indian Lake in Perry County.
- (4) Saddle Lake in Perry County.
- ~~(5) Scales Lake in Warrick County.~~
- ~~(6)~~ (5) Shakamak State Park Lakes in Clay County, Greene County, and Sullivan County.
- ~~(7)~~ (6) Tipsaw Lake in Perry County.
- ~~(8)~~ (7) Ferdinand State Forest Lake in Dubois County.
- ~~(9)~~ (8) Montgomery City Park Lake in Daviess County.

(f) An individual may take or possess not more than one (1) largemouth bass from Turtle Creek Reservoir in Sullivan County. An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass from Turtle Creek Reservoir unless the largemouth bass is at least twenty (20) inches long.

(g) An individual may take or possess not more than five (5) largemouth bass in aggregate per day from Patoka Lake in Orange, Crawford, and Dubois counties or Dogwood Lake in Daviess County. An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass from Patoka Lake or Dogwood Lake unless the largemouth bass is at least fifteen (15) inches long.

(h) An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass from Harden Lake in Parke County unless the largemouth bass is at least sixteen (16) inches long.

(i) An individual must not take or possess more than two (2) largemouth bass per day, and an individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass unless the largemouth bass is at least eighteen (18) inches long from the following designated waters:

- (1) Tri-County State Fish and Wildlife Area.
- (2) Robinson Lake in Whitley County and Kosciusko County.
- (3) Ball Lake in Steuben County.
- ~~(4) Gibson Lake in Gibson County.~~
- ~~(5)~~ (4) Loon Pit at Blue Grass Fish and Wildlife Area in Warrick County.
- ~~(6)~~ (5) Bluegrass Pit at Blue Grass Fish and Wildlife Area in Warrick County.
- ~~(7)~~ (6) J. C. Murphey Lake at Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area in Newton County.

(j) An individual must not take or possess more than five (5) black bass in aggregate per day from the Blue River located in Crawford and Harrison counties **and Big Long Lake in LaGrange County**. Each black bass taken from the Blue River in Crawford and Harrison counties **and Big Long Lake in LaGrange County** must be less than twelve (12) inches long or more than fifteen (15) inches long but not more than two (2) per day can be taken that are longer than fifteen (15) inches.

(k) An individual may take or possess not more than one (1) black bass from Sugar Creek located in Parke, Montgomery, Boone, Clinton, and Tipton counties per day and the black bass must be at least twenty (20) inches long.

(l) If this section prohibits an individual from taking or possessing a black bass from a specified water of the state, an individual must not possess a black bass of the prohibited class on or adjacent to the specified water of the state. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-7-6; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2718; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3721; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1539; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 549; filed Feb 27, 2007, 2:25 p.m.: 20070328-IR-312060262FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Jul 6, 2010, 1:55 p.m.: 20100804-IR-312090616FRA; filed Apr 25, 2012, 3:48 p.m.: 20120523-IR-312110358FRA; errata filed Jun 4, 2012, 3:20 p.m.: 20120613-IR-312120283ACA*)

SECTION 15. 312 IAC 9-7-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-7-12 Walleye; sauger; saugeye

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 12. (a) **Except as provided in subsection (d)**, an individual may take or possess not more than six (6) of any combination of walleye, sauger, or saugeye per day.

(b) Except on the Ohio River, and as provided in ~~subsection~~ **subsections (c) and (d)**, an individual must not take or possess a walleye or saugeye unless it is at least fourteen (14) inches long.

(c) An individual must not take or possess a walleye from the St. Joseph River in St. Joseph County or Elkhart County or from the Elkhart River from its confluence with the St. Joseph River to the first dam in Elkhart County unless the walleye is at least fifteen (15) inches long.

(d) An individual must not take or possess a walleye from Wall Lake in LaGrange County unless it is at least sixteen (16) inches long and take not more than two (2) per day. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-7-12; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2719; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1540; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Jul 6, 2010, 1:55 p.m.: 20100804-IR-312090616FRA; filed Mar 15, 2013, 2:33 p.m.: 20130410-IR-312120403FRA*)

SECTION 16. 312 IAC 9-7-14 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-7-14 Fish with no bag limit, possession limit, or size limit

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 14. (a) There is no bag limit, possession limit, or size limit for the following:

- (1) Alewife.
- (2) American eel.

- (3) Bluegill.
- (4) Bowfin.
- (5) Buffalo.
- (6) Bullhead.
- (7) Carp.
- (8) Chain pickerel.
- (9) Chub.
- (10) Cisco.
- (11) Gar.
- (12) Gizzard shad.
- (13) Lake herring.
- ~~(14) Lake whitefish.~~
- ~~(15) (14) Shad.~~
- ~~(16) (15) Smelt.~~
- ~~(17) (16) Sucker.~~
- ~~(18) (17) Yellow bass.~~

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), an individual may take not more than twenty-five (25) of any combination of bluegill, redear sunfish, and crappie per day from J. C. Murphey Lake at Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area in Newton County.

(c) If a bowfin contains roe, the roe must remain intact and inside the body of the fish while on the body of water or adjacent to the water being fished, and until processing of the fish begins.

(d) An individual must not:

- (1) screen;**
- (2) wash;**
- (3) otherwise process;**
- (4) preserve;**
- (5) store;**
- (6) maintain possession;**
- (7) gift to any other individual;**
- (8) sell; or**
- (9) transport;**

roe removed from a bowfin without a roe harvester's license issued under 312 IAC 9-8-7.
(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-7-14; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2720; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3723; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Feb 27, 2007, 2:25 p.m.: 20070328-IR-312060262FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Jul 6, 2010, 1:55 p.m.: 20100804-IR-312090616FRA)

SECTION 17. 312 IAC 9-7-20 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-7-20 Shovelnose sturgeon

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 20. (a) An individual must not take or possess a shovelnose sturgeon unless the shovelnose sturgeon is at least twenty-five (25) inches in fork length.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), if a shovelnose sturgeon contains roe, the roe must remain intact and inside the body of the fish while on the body of water or adjacent to the water being fished, and until processing of the fish begins.

(c) An individual must not:

- (1) screen;
- (2) wash;
- (3) otherwise process;
- (4) preserve;
- (5) store;
- (6) maintain possession;
- (7) gift to any other individual;
- (8) sell; or
- (9) transport;

roe removed from a shovelnose sturgeon without a roe harvester's license issued under 312 IAC 9-8-7. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-7-20; filed Feb 27, 2007, 2:25 p.m.: 20070328-IR-312060262FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Jul 6, 2010, 1:55 p.m.: 20100804-IR-312090616FRA*)

SECTION 18. 312 IAC 9-7-21 IS ADDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-7-21 Lake whitefish

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 21. An individual may take or possess not more than twelve (12) lake whitefish per calendar day. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-7-21*)

SECTION 19. 312 IAC 9-9-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-9-4 Endangered species of invertebrates

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6; IC 14-22-34-17

Affected: IC 14-22-34-12

Sec. 4. The following species of invertebrates are endangered and are subject to the protections provided under IC 14-22-34-12:

- (1) Rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*).
- (2) Sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*).
- (3) Clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*).
- (4) Pyramid pigtoe (*Pleurobema rubrum*).
- (5) Fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*).
- (6) Snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*).

- (7) Orangefoot pimpleback (*Plethobasus cooperianus*).
- (8) Pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*).
- (9) Fat pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*).
- (10) Rough pigtoe (*Pleurobema plenum*).
- (11) Tubercled blossom (*Epioblasma torulosa torulosa*).
- (12) White catspaw (*Epioblasma obliquata perobliqua*).
- (13) Northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*).
- (14) Longsolid (*Fusconaia subrotunda*).
- (15) White wartyback (*Plethobasus cicatricosus*).
- (16) Rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*).
- (17) Round hickorynut (*Obovaria subrotunda*).**

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-9-4; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2727; filed May 16, 2002, 12:25 p.m.: 25 IR 3049; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:30 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060272FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Mar 15, 2013, 2:33 p.m.: 20130410-IR-312120403FRA)

EXHIBIT E

The substitution of this rule language will effect the revision regarding archery release devices at 312 IAC 9-3-3(b)(5)(A) and will withdraw the originally proposed amendments to establish a primitive muzzleloader season.

SECTION 3. 312 IAC 9-3-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-2 General requirements and licenses for hunting deer

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22; IC 35-47-2

Sec. 2. (a) This section and sections 3 through 10 of this rule govern the:

- (1) hunting;
- (2) transportation; and
- (3) disposal;

of deer.

(b) Species of deer other than white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are exempted from the following:

- (1) This section.
- (2) Sections 3 through 9 of this rule.

An individual who claims the exemption provided under this subsection must prove the deer is other than a white-tailed deer.

(c) The licenses identified in this section are nonexclusive. An individual may apply for one (1) or more of these licenses.

(d) Except as provided under IC 14-22-11-1 and IC 14-22-11-11, an individual must not hunt deer:

- (1) unless the individual possesses a completed and signed license authorized under this section bearing the individual's name; or
- (2) with a deer license issued to another individual.

(e) A youth hunter may take a deer during the youth deer season established in section 4(b) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer with:
 - (A) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (B) a nonresident youth deer firearms license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(29);
 - (C) a nonresident youth deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(30);
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer archery license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(31);
 - (E) a nonresident youth extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (F) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);**

- ~~(G)~~ **(H)** a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
- ~~(H)~~ **(I)** a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
- ~~(I)~~ **(J)** an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through ~~(F)~~ **(G)** under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or

(2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(f) An individual may take a deer with a long bow, a recurve bow, or a compound bow during the archery season established in section 4(c) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer by bow and arrows with:
 - (A) a resident deer archery license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(14);
 - (B) a nonresident deer archery license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(17);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer archery license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(31);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or

(2) hunting without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(g) An individual may take a deer with a crossbow during the archery season established in section 4(c) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer with:
 - (A) a resident extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(14);
 - (B) a nonresident extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(17);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(31);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or

(2) hunting without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(h) An individual may take a deer with a firearm during the firearms season established in section 4(e) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer by firearms with:
 - (A) a resident deer firearms license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(12);
 - (B) a nonresident deer firearms license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(15);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer firearms license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(29);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or
- (2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(i) An individual may take a deer with a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader season established in section 4(f) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer by a muzzleloader with:
 - (A) a resident deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(13);
 - (B) a nonresident deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(16);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(30);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or
- (2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(j) An individual may take a deer during the urban deer season established in section 4(d) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer with:
 - (A) a resident extra urban deer zone license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (B) a nonresident extra urban deer zone license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);

- (D) a nonresident youth extra urban deer zone license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
- (E) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7;
- (F) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4); or
- (G) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
- (2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(k) An individual may take a deer during the special antlerless deer season established in section 4(h) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer with:
 - (A) a resident extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (B) a nonresident extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7;
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4); or
 - (J) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
- (2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(l) An individual may take an antlerless deer in a designated county, by authority of an extra deer bonus antlerless license, only as authorized under section 4(g) and 4(h) of this rule.

(m) An individual must, immediately upon taking a deer, record on a piece of paper the following:

- (1) The name and address of the individual who took the deer.
- (2) The license number (if applicable) of the individual who took the deer.
- (3) The sex of the deer.
- (4) The month and day the deer was taken.

The individual that takes the deer must retain possession of the completed piece of paper until the paper is attached to the deer. The piece of paper must be attached to the deer if the individual who takes the deer does not maintain direct physical control of and constant visual contact with the deer carcass.

(n) An individual who takes a deer must cause delivery of the deer carcass to an official checking station for registration in the name of the individual who took the deer or cause the reporting of the take by providing the information required by the department's electronic harvest reporting system on the occurrence of the earlier of the following:

(1) Within forty-eight (48) hours of the taking of the deer.

(2) Before the deer is removed from this state.

The individual who delivers the deer carcass to an official checking station for registration or reports the take on the department's electronic harvest reporting system must provide true and accurate information that includes the information on the piece of paper described in subsection (m).

(o) The head of a deer must remain attached to the carcass until the deer is registered either at an official checking station or through the department's electronic harvest reporting system.

(p) When a deer is registered, **the following:**

(1) At an official deer checking station, the checking station operator must record the permanent seal number on the log, collect the piece of paper described in subsection (m), and give the seal to the individual. The individual must immediately affix the seal:

(A) between a tendon and bone;

(B) through a section of skin or flesh; or

(C) around a branched antler;

to prevent its removal (without cutting the seal or the body part to which it is affixed). The seal must be maintained until processing of the deer begins.

(2) Using the department's electronic harvest reporting system, the individual who took the deer must record the confirmation number on the piece of paper described in subsection (m). This confirmation number must be maintained with the deer until processing of the deer begins.

(q) The checking station operator must do the following:

(1) Accurately and legibly complete all forms provided by the department.

(2) Make those forms available to department personnel upon request.

(r) The permanent seal issued by the checking station or the department's electronic harvest confirmation number must be maintained with a deer that is gifted to another individual until processing of the deer begins.

(s) An individual must not hunt deer except from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

(t) An individual must wear hunter orange:

(1) in a season set forth in section 4(b), 4(e), 4(f), and 4(h) of this rule;

(2) in that portion of the archery season set forth in section 4(c) of this rule that overlaps a season set forth in section **4(b)**, 4(e), 4(f), and 4(h) of this rule; ~~and~~

(3) when firearms are authorized under section 8(b) of this rule;

(4) in that portion of the urban deer season set forth in section 4(d) of this rule that overlaps a season and is in a location where hunting is authorized in section 4(b), 4(e), 4(f) and 4(h) of this rule; and

(5) in the special antlerless season in the locations where the season is authorized in section 4(h) of this rule.

(u) A ground blind that is:

~~(1) occupied must contain a minimum of one hundred forty-four (144) square inches of material on each side that is solid hunter orange and is visible from any direction during:~~

~~(A) a season set forth in section 4(b), 4(e), 4(f), and 4(h) of this rule; and~~

~~(B) that portion of the archery season set forth in section 4(e) of this rule that overlaps a season set forth in section 4(e), 4(f), and 4(h) of this rule;~~

~~(2) left unoccupied on department property must visibly bear the name and address of the owner written in the English language in a conspicuous location on the outside of the blind near the entrance.~~

~~(v)~~ An individual must not take more than one (1) antlered deer during the special youth, archery, firearm, and muzzleloader seasons authorized in section 4 of this rule from the first day of the special youth deer season of one (1) calendar year through the last day of the archery season in the following calendar year.

~~(w)~~ (v) An individual must not hunt deer with the use or aid of:

(1) bait, which includes:

(A) a food that is transported and placed for consumption, including, but not limited to, piles of corn and apples placed in the field;

(B) a prepared solid or liquid that is manufactured and intended for consumption by livestock or wild deer, including, but not limited to, commercial baits and food supplements;

(C) salt; or

(D) mineral supplements;

(2) snares;

(3) dogs; or

(4) other domesticated animals.

The use of manufactured scents and lures or similar chemical or natural attractants is not prohibited.

~~(x)~~ (w) An area is considered baited for ten (10) days after the removal of the bait and the baited soil. Hunting an area, such as an orchard, which may be attractive to deer as the result of normal agricultural activity, is not prohibited.

~~(y)~~ (x) Notwithstanding subsection ~~(w)~~ (v), an individual may use dogs only while on a leash to track or trail wounded deer.

~~(z)~~ (y) Notwithstanding subsection ~~(w)~~ (v), an individual may use:

(1) donkeys;

(2) mules; and

(3) horses;

for transportation to and from a hunt but not while hunting.

~~(aa)~~ (z) An individual must not hunt white-tailed deer possessed under the authority of a game breeder license under 312 IAC 9-10-4.

~~(bb)~~ (aa) An individual may possess a handgun in accordance with IC 35-47 while hunting deer.

~~(ee)~~ (bb) "Deer license bundle" means a multiple privilege deer license that **replaces a valid deer hunting license and** allows an individual to take one (1) antlered deer and two (2) antlerless deer or three (3) antlerless deer **in accordance with this section and sections 3 and 4 of this rule** in the **following seasons combined in one (1) year:**

- (1) Special youth.
- (2) Archery.
- (3) Firearms.
- (4) Muzzleloader. ~~and~~
- (5) Special antlerless only.

~~seasons combined in one (1) year in accordance with the provisions in this section and sections 3 and 4 of this rule.~~ (Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-2; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2702; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1528; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 536; filed May 12, 2006, 10:38 a.m.: 29 IR 3344; filed Jun 23, 2006, 2:24 p.m.: 20060719-IR-312050214FRA; errata filed Jul 21, 2006, 1:56 p.m.: 20060802-IR-312050214ACA; filed Jul 10, 2007, 2:09 p.m.: 20070808-IR-312060572FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Nov 3, 2009, 3:34 p.m.: 20091202-IR-312090044FRA; filed Dec 1, 2011, 4:01 p.m.: 20111228-IR-312110101FRA; errata filed Jan 10, 2012, 1:19 p.m.: 20120125-IR-312120006ACA; filed Jul 9, 2012, 3:00 p.m.: 20120808-IR-312120065FRA; filed Dec 18, 2012, 2:00 p.m.: 20130116-IR-312120115FRA)

SECTION 4. 312 IAC 9-3-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22; IC 35-47-2

Sec. 3. (a) During the youth special deer season established in section 4(b) of this rule, a youth hunter must hunt deer only with the following equipment:

- (1) A bow and arrow as described in subsection (b)(1) through (b)(5).
- (2) A crossbow as defined in 312 IAC 9-1-5.3.
- (3) A shotgun as described in subsection (d)(1).
- (4) A muzzleloading long gun as described in subsection (d)(3).
- (5) A rifle, with the use of cartridges described in subsection (d)(4).

(b) During the archery season established in section 4(c) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with ~~the following~~ equipment **as follows:**

- (1) **With** a long bow, **recurve bow**, or compound bow that has at least thirty-five (35) pounds pull with a valid license identified at section 2(f) of this rule.
- (2) **From October 1 through the first Sunday in January with** a crossbow with a valid license identified at section 2(g) of this rule.

(3) Arrows or bolts must be equipped with metal or metal-edged (or flint, chert, or obsidian napped) broadheads.

(4) Poisoned or explosive arrows or bolts are unlawful.

(5) For long bows, recurve bows, and compound bows:

(A) bows drawn, held, or released other than by hand or hand-held releases are unlawful **except from October 1 through the first Sunday in January**; and

(B) no portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any:

(i) track;

(ii) trough;

(iii) channel;

(iv) arrow rest; or

(v) other device;

that attaches to the bow's riser shall contact, support, or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height.

(c) During the firearms season established in section 4(e) of this rule and the special antlerless season established in section 4(h) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with any of the following equipment:

(1) A shotgun.

(2) A shotgun with rifled barrel.

(3) A handgun.

(4) A muzzleloading long gun.

(5) A muzzleloading handgun.

(6) A rifle, with the use of cartridges described in subsection (d)(4) only.

(d) As used in section 2 of this rule, this section, and sections 4 through 8 of this rule, a firearm must meet the following specifications:

(1) A shotgun must have a gauge 10, 12, 16, 20, or .410 bore loaded with a single projectile.

(2) A handgun must:

(A) conform to the requirements of IC 35-47-2;

(B) have a barrel at least four (4) inches long;

(C) fire a bullet of two hundred forty-three thousandths (.243) inch diameter or larger; and

(D) not be a rifle that has a barrel less than eighteen (18) inches or is designed or redesigned to be fired from the shoulder.

The handgun cartridge case, without bullet, must be at least one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches long. Full metal jacketed bullets are unlawful. All 25/20, 32/20, 30 carbine, and 38 special ammunition is prohibited.

(3) A muzzleloading long gun must be .44 caliber or larger, loaded with a bullet at least three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) inch or larger. A muzzleloading handgun must be single shot, .50 caliber or larger, loaded with bullets at least .44 caliber and have a barrel at least twelve (12) inches long. The length of a muzzleloading handgun barrel is determined by measuring from the base of the breech plug, excluding tangs and other projections, to the end of the barrel, including the muzzle crown. A muzzleloading gun must be capable of being loaded only from the muzzle, including both powder and bullet.

- (4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications:
 - (A) Fire a bullet of three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) of an inch diameter or larger.
 - (B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.
 - (C) Have a maximum case length of one and eight-tenths (1.8) inches.
- ~~(5) Over and under combination rifle shotguns are prohibited.~~

(e) During the muzzleloader season established in section 4(f) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with a:

- (1) muzzleloading long gun as described in subsection (d)(3); or
- (2) muzzleloading handgun as described in subsection (d)(3).

(f) During the urban deer season established in section 4(d) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer with bows and arrows described in section 3(b) of this rule.

(g) An individual must not erect, place, or hunt from a permanent tree or ground blind on state owned lands. A tree or ground blind placed on:

- (1) a DNR property as defined at 312 IAC 8-1-4(3);
- (2) U.S. Forest Service lands; or
- (3) any national wildlife refuge;

must be portable and may be left overnight only between September 1 and January 10. A fastener used in conjunction with a tree blind and a tree or pole climber that penetrates a tree more than one-half (1/2) inch is prohibited. Each tree or ground blind must be legibly marked with the name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the blind in the English language.

(h) An individual must not use infrared sensors to locate or take deer. An individual must not hunt or retrieve deer with the aid of an infrared detector.

(i) An individual must not possess or use an electronic deer call while hunting deer. *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-3; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2703; filed Nov 13, 1997, 12:09 p.m.: 21 IR 1272; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1530; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 538; filed Jun 23, 2006, 2:24 p.m.: 20060719-IR-312050214FRA; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:30 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060272FRA; filed Sep 6, 2007, 12:20 p.m.: 20071003-IR-312070023FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Nov 3, 2009, 3:34 p.m.: 20091202-IR-312090044FRA; filed Dec 1, 2011, 4:01 p.m.: 20111228-IR-312110101FRA)*

SECTION 5. 312 IAC 9-3-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-4 Season dates and bag limits

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 4. (a) An individual must not take more than one (1) deer with each deer license.

(b) The special youth deer season is two (2) consecutive days beginning on the Saturday immediately before October 1 or as approved annually by the director.

(1) The seasonal limit for hunting deer under this subsection is one (1) antlered deer and the number of antlerless deer established under subsection (g) for the county being hunted.

(2) A youth hunter who takes an antlered deer under this subsection may not take another antlered deer during the:

(A) archery seasons established in subsection (c);

(B) firearm season established in subsection (e); or

(C) muzzleloader season established in subsection (f).

(3) As used in this section, "youth" means an individual who is less than eighteen (18) years of age by the date of the hunt.

(4) A youth who hunts a deer under this subsection must be accompanied by an adult of at least eighteen (18) years of age who:

(A) does not possess a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow while in the field;

(B) possesses a valid hunting license of any type that is not an apprentice license;

(C) must not accompany more than two (2) youth hunters at any one (1) time; and

(D) must be in close proximity and able to communicate with the youth hunter at all times.

(c) The archery deer season is from ~~October 1~~ **September 15** through the first Sunday in January. An individual must take not more than two (2) deer of which only one (1) may be antlered under this subsection.

(d) The urban deer season is as follows:

(1) From September 15 through January 31 of the following year in an urban deer zone.

(2) Under this subsection:

(A) An individual must take not more than four (4) deer of which only one (1) may be antlered.

(B) At least one (1) antlerless deer must be taken in an urban deer zone prior to taking an antlered deer.

(3) A deer taken under this subsection does not count against a bag limit for deer set elsewhere in this rule.

(4) The following areas have been designated as urban deer zones subject to the urban deer season:

(A) The Indianapolis urban deer zone includes the following:

(i) All of Marion County.

(ii) That portion of Hendricks County east of State Highway 267.

(iii) The southeast portion of Boone County as bounded by the following:

(AA) State Highway 267.

(BB) Interstate Highway 65.

(CC) State Highway 32.

(iv) That portion of Hamilton County south of State Highway 32.

(B) The Fort Wayne urban deer zone includes that portion of Allen County lying within the bounds of Interstate Highway 69 and State Highway 469.

(C) The Evansville urban deer zone includes all of Vanderburgh County.

- (D) The Lafayette urban deer zone includes the portion of Tippecanoe County north of State Highway 28.
- (E) The Lake County urban deer zone includes all of Lake County.
- (F) The Porter County urban deer zone includes all of Porter County.
- (G) The Michigan City urban deer zone includes that portion of LaPorte County north of U.S. Highway 94.
- (H) The Warsaw urban deer zone includes the portion of Kosciusko County within the corporate limits of the city of Warsaw.

(e) The firearms deer season is from the first Saturday after November 11 and continues for an additional fifteen (15) days. An individual must take not more than one (1) antlered deer under this subsection.

(f) The deer hunting season for only using a muzzleloading long gun or muzzleloading handgun is from the first Saturday after the closing day of firearms season as established in subsection (e) and continues for an additional fifteen (15) days. An individual must not take more than one (1) deer of either sex under this subsection.

(g) The season and bag limit for hunting antlerless deer in a designated county, by authority of an extra deer bonus antlerless license, shall be established on an annual basis by a temporary rule authorized by the director.

(h) The special antlerless deer season is from December 26 through the first Sunday in January of the following year in counties with an antlerless quota of four (4) or more deer. An individual may take only antlerless deer under this subsection and may take only the number established under subsection (g) for the county being hunted.

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-4; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2703; filed Nov 5, 1997, 3:25 p.m.: 21 IR 930; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1530; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 538; filed May 25, 2005, 10:15 a.m.: 28 IR 2945; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:30 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060272FRA; filed Jul 10, 2007, 2:09 p.m.: 20070808-IR-312060572FRA; filed Sep 6, 2007, 12:20 p.m.: 20071003-IR-312070023FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Nov 3, 2009, 3:34 p.m.: 20091202-IR-312090044FRA; filed Nov 12, 2009, 3:53 p.m.: 20091209-IR-312090060FRA; filed Dec 1, 2011, 4:01 p.m.: 20111228-IR-312110101FRA)

EXHIBIT F

The substitution of this rule language will effect the revision regarding archery release devices at 312 IAC 9-3-3(b)(5)(A) and will withdraw the originally proposed amendments to extend the archery season.

SECTION 4. 312 IAC 9-3-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22; IC 35-47-2

Sec. 3. (a) During the youth special deer season established in section 4(b) of this rule, a youth hunter must hunt deer only with the following equipment:

- (1) A bow and arrow as described in subsection (b)(1) through (b)(5).
- (2) A crossbow as defined in 312 IAC 9-1-5.3.
- (3) A shotgun as described in subsection (d)(1).
- (4) A muzzleloading long gun as described in subsection (d)(3).
- (5) A rifle, with the use of cartridges described in subsection (d)(4).

(b) During the archery season established in section 4(c) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with ~~the following~~ equipment **as follows:**

- (1) **With** a long bow, **recurve bow**, or compound bow that has at least thirty-five (35) pounds pull with a valid license identified at section 2(f) of this rule.
- (2) **With** a crossbow with a valid license identified at section 2(g) of this rule.
- (3) Arrows or bolts must be equipped with metal or metal-edged (or flint, chert, or obsidian napped) broadheads.
- (4) Poisoned or explosive arrows or bolts are unlawful.
- (5) For long bows, recurve bows, and compound bows:
 - ~~(A) bows drawn, held, or released other than by hand or hand-held releases are unlawful; and~~
 - ~~(B)~~ no portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any:
 - (i) track;
 - (ii) trough;
 - (iii) channel;
 - (iv) arrow rest; or
 - (v) other device;
 that attaches to the bow's riser shall contact, support, or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height.

(c) During the firearms season established in section 4(e) of this rule and the special antlerless season established in section 4(h) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with any of the following equipment:

- (1) A shotgun.
- (2) A shotgun with rifled barrel.

- (3) A handgun.
- (4) A muzzleloading long gun.
- (5) A muzzleloading handgun.
- (6) A rifle, with the use of cartridges described in subsection (d)(4) only.

(d) As used in section 2 of this rule, this section, and sections 4 through 8 of this rule, a firearm must meet the following specifications:

- (1) A shotgun must have a gauge 10, 12, 16, 20, or .410 bore loaded with a single projectile.
- (2) A handgun must:
 - (A) conform to the requirements of IC 35-47-2;
 - (B) have a barrel at least four (4) inches long;
 - (C) fire a bullet of two hundred forty-three thousandths (.243) inch diameter or larger; and
 - (D) not be a rifle that has a barrel less than eighteen (18) inches or is designed or redesigned to be fired from the shoulder.

The handgun cartridge case, without bullet, must be at least one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches long. Full metal jacketed bullets are unlawful. All 25/20, 32/20, 30 carbine, and 38 special ammunition is prohibited.

(3) A muzzleloading long gun must be .44 caliber or larger, loaded with a bullet at least three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) inch or larger. A muzzleloading handgun must be single shot, .50 caliber or larger, loaded with bullets at least .44 caliber and have a barrel at least twelve (12) inches long. The length of a muzzleloading handgun barrel is determined by measuring from the base of the breech plug, excluding tangs and other projections, to the end of the barrel, including the muzzle crown. A muzzleloading gun must be capable of being loaded only from the muzzle, including both powder and bullet.

- (4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications:
 - (A) Fire a bullet of three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) of an inch diameter or larger.
 - (B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.
 - (C) Have a maximum case length of one and eight-tenths (1.8) inches.
- ~~(5) Over and under combination rifle-shotguns are prohibited.~~

(e) During the muzzleloader season established in section 4(f) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with a:

- (1) muzzleloading long gun as described in subsection (d)(3); or
- (2) muzzleloading handgun as described in subsection (d)(3).

(f) During the primitive muzzleloader season established in section 4(i) of this rule, an individual may hunt deer only with a muzzleloading long gun as follows:

- (1) Fire black powder or black powder substitute.**
- (2) Have a traditional, external side-hammer design.**
- (3) Be capable of being loaded only from the muzzle.**
- (4) Have a caliber of at least .45.**
- (5) Be loaded with a bullet at least four hundred forty-thousandths (.440) of an inch diameter.**

- (6) Have an ignition system that is flintlock or caplock.**
- (7) Use a lead round ball or lead conical bullet without plastic or other sabot.**
- (8) Have traditional-style open sights (fixed or adjustable v-notched rear sight, buckhorn rear sight, metallic rear peep sight, and post or blade front sight).**
- (9) Not have telescopic or other sights that incorporate glass or electronics.**

~~(f)~~ **(g)** During the urban deer season established in section 4(d) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer with bows and arrows described in section 3(b) of this rule.

~~(g)~~ **(h)** An individual must not erect, place, or hunt from a permanent tree or ground blind on state owned lands. A tree or ground blind placed on:

- (1) a DNR property as defined at 312 IAC 8-1-4(3);
- (2) U.S. Forest Service lands; or
- (3) any national wildlife refuge;

must be portable and may be left overnight only between September 1 and January 10. A fastener used in conjunction with a tree blind and a tree or pole climber that penetrates a tree more than one-half (1/2) inch is prohibited. Each tree or ground blind must be legibly marked with the name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the blind in the English language.

~~(h)~~ **(i)** An individual must not use infrared sensors to locate or take deer. An individual must not hunt or retrieve deer with the aid of an infrared detector.

~~(i)~~ **(j)** An individual must not possess or use an electronic deer call while hunting deer. *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-3; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2703; filed Nov 13, 1997, 12:09 p.m.: 21 IR 1272; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1530; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 538; filed Jun 23, 2006, 2:24 p.m.: 20060719-IR-312050214FRA; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:30 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060272FRA; filed Sep 6, 2007, 12:20 p.m.: 20071003-IR-312070023FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Nov 3, 2009, 3:34 p.m.: 20091202-IR-312090044FRA; filed Dec 1, 2011, 4:01 p.m.: 20111228-IR-312110101FRA)*

SECTION 5. 312 IAC 9-3-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-4 Season dates and bag limits

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 4. (a) An individual must not take more than one (1) deer with each deer license.

(b) The special youth deer season is two (2) consecutive days beginning on the Saturday immediately before October 1 or as approved annually by the director.

(1) The seasonal limit for hunting deer under this subsection is one (1) antlered deer and the number of antlerless deer established under subsection (g) for the county being hunted.

(2) A youth hunter who takes an antlered deer under this subsection may not take another antlered deer during the:

- (A) archery seasons established in subsection (c);
 - (B) firearm season established in subsection (e); or
 - (C) muzzleloader season established in subsection (f).
- (3) As used in this section, "youth" means an individual who is less than eighteen (18) years of age by the date of the hunt.
- (4) A youth who hunts a deer under this subsection must be accompanied by an adult of at least eighteen (18) years of age who:
- (A) does not possess a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow while in the field;
 - (B) possesses a valid hunting license of any type that is not an apprentice license;
 - (C) must not accompany more than two (2) youth hunters at any one (1) time; and
 - (D) must be in close proximity and able to communicate with the youth hunter at all times.

(c) The archery deer season is from October 1 through the first Sunday in January. An individual must take not more than two (2) deer of which only one (1) may be antlered under this subsection.

- (d) The urban deer season is as follows:
- (1) From September 15 through January 31 of the following year in an urban deer zone.
- (2) Under this subsection:
- (A) An individual must take not more than four (4) deer of which only one (1) may be antlered.
 - (B) At least one (1) antlerless deer must be taken in an urban deer zone prior to taking an antlered deer.
- (3) A deer taken under this subsection does not count against a bag limit for deer set elsewhere in this rule.
- (4) The following areas have been designated as urban deer zones subject to the urban deer season:
- (A) The Indianapolis urban deer zone includes the following:
 - (i) All of Marion County.
 - (ii) That portion of Hendricks County east of State Highway 267.
 - (iii) The southeast portion of Boone County as bounded by the following:
 - (AA) State Highway 267.
 - (BB) Interstate Highway 65.
 - (CC) State Highway 32.
 - (iv) That portion of Hamilton County south of State Highway 32.
 - (B) The Fort Wayne urban deer zone includes that portion of Allen County lying within the bounds of Interstate Highway 69 and State Highway 469.
 - (C) The Evansville urban deer zone includes all of Vanderburgh County.
 - (D) The Lafayette urban deer zone includes the portion of Tippecanoe County north of State Highway 28.
 - (E) The Lake County urban deer zone includes all of Lake County.
 - (F) The Porter County urban deer zone includes all of Porter County.
 - (G) The Michigan City urban deer zone includes that portion of LaPorte County north of U.S. Highway 94.

(H) The Warsaw urban deer zone includes the portion of Kosciusko County within the corporate limits of the city of Warsaw.

(e) The firearms deer season is from the first Saturday after November 11 and continues for an additional fifteen (15) days. An individual must take not more than one (1) antlered deer under this subsection.

(f) The deer hunting season for only using a muzzleloading long gun or muzzleloading handgun is from the first Saturday after the closing day of firearms season as established in subsection (e) and continues for an additional fifteen (15) days. An individual must not take more than one (1) deer of either sex under this subsection.

(g) The season and bag limit for hunting antlerless deer in a designated county, by authority of an extra deer bonus antlerless license, shall be established on an annual basis by a temporary rule authorized by the director.

(h) The special antlerless deer season is from December 26 through the first Sunday in January of the following year in counties with an antlerless quota of four (4) or more deer. An individual may take only antlerless deer under this subsection and may take only the number established under subsection (g) for the county being hunted.

(i) The primitive muzzleloader season is from the first Monday in January and continues for an additional six (6) consecutive days. An individual must not take more than one (1) deer of either sex under this subsection and subsection (f) combined. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-4; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2703; filed Nov 5, 1997, 3:25 p.m.: 21 IR 930; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1530; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 538; filed May 25, 2005, 10:15 a.m.: 28 IR 2945; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:30 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060272FRA; filed Jul 10, 2007, 2:09 p.m.: 20070808-IR-312060572FRA; filed Sep 6, 2007, 12:20 p.m.: 20071003-IR-312070023FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Nov 3, 2009, 3:34 p.m.: 20091202-IR-312090044FRA; filed Nov 12, 2009, 3:53 p.m.: 20091209-IR-312090060FRA; filed Dec 1, 2011, 4:01 p.m.: 20111228-IR-312110101FRA*)

EXHIBIT G

The substitution of this rule language will effect the revision regarding archery release devices at 312 IAC 9-3-3(b)(5)(A) and will withdraw the originally proposed amendments to establish both the primitive muzzleloader season and to extend the archery season.

SECTION 3. 312 IAC 9-3-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-2 General requirements and licenses for hunting deer

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22; IC 35-47-2

Sec. 2. (a) This section and sections 3 through 10 of this rule govern the:

- (1) hunting;
- (2) transportation; and
- (3) disposal;

of deer.

(b) Species of deer other than white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are exempted from the following:

- (1) This section.
- (2) Sections 3 through 9 of this rule.

An individual who claims the exemption provided under this subsection must prove the deer is other than a white-tailed deer.

(c) The licenses identified in this section are nonexclusive. An individual may apply for one (1) or more of these licenses.

(d) Except as provided under IC 14-22-11-1 and IC 14-22-11-11, an individual must not hunt deer:

- (1) unless the individual possesses a completed and signed license authorized under this section bearing the individual's name; or
- (2) with a deer license issued to another individual.

(e) A youth hunter may take a deer during the youth deer season established in section 4(b) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer with:
 - (A) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (B) a nonresident youth deer firearms license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(29);
 - (C) a nonresident youth deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(30);
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer archery license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(31);
 - (E) a nonresident youth extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (F) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);**

- ~~(G)~~ **(H)** a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
- ~~(H)~~ **(I)** a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
- ~~(I)~~ **(J)** an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through ~~(F)~~ **(G)** under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or

(2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(f) An individual may take a deer with a long bow, a recurve bow, or a compound bow during the archery season established in section 4(c) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer by bow and arrows with:
 - (A) a resident deer archery license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(14);
 - (B) a nonresident deer archery license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(17);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer archery license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(31);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or

(2) hunting without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(g) An individual may take a deer with a crossbow during the archery season established in section 4(c) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer with:
 - (A) a resident extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(14);
 - (B) a nonresident extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(17);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth extra deer crossbow license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(31);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or

(2) hunting without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(h) An individual may take a deer with a firearm during the firearms season established in section 4(e) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer by firearms with:
 - (A) a resident deer firearms license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(12);
 - (B) a nonresident deer firearms license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(15);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer firearms license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(29);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or
- (2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(i) An individual may take a deer with a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader season established in section 4(f) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer by a muzzleloader with:
 - (A) a resident deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-11-10(a) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(13);
 - (B) a nonresident deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(16);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth deer muzzleloader license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(30);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4);
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
 - (J) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7; or
- (2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(j) An individual may take a deer during the urban deer season established in section 4(d) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer with:
 - (A) a resident extra urban deer zone license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (B) a nonresident extra urban deer zone license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);

- (D) a nonresident youth extra urban deer zone license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
- (E) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7;
- (F) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4); or
- (G) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
- (2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(k) An individual may take a deer during the special antlerless deer season established in section 4(h) of this rule only if:

- (1) issued a license to hunt deer with:
 - (A) a resident extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (B) a nonresident extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (C) a resident youth consolidated hunting license under IC 14-22-11-10(b) or IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24);
 - (D) a nonresident youth extra deer bonus antlerless license under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (E) a resident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(18);
 - (F) a nonresident extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(19);
 - (G) a nonresident youth extra deer license bundle under IC 14-22-12-1(a)(32);
 - (H) an apprentice license of the types identified in clauses (A) through (G) under IC 14-22-12-1.7;
 - (I) a lifetime comprehensive hunting license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(4); or
 - (J) a lifetime comprehensive hunting and fishing license under IC 14-22-12-7(a)(5); or
- (2) hunting deer without a license under IC 14-22-11-1 and 312 IAC 9-2-14.

(l) An individual may take an antlerless deer in a designated county, by authority of an extra deer bonus antlerless license, only as authorized under section 4(g) and 4(h) of this rule.

(m) An individual must, immediately upon taking a deer, record on a piece of paper the following:

- (1) The name and address of the individual who took the deer.
- (2) The license number (if applicable) of the individual who took the deer.
- (3) The sex of the deer.
- (4) The month and day the deer was taken.

The individual that takes the deer must retain possession of the completed piece of paper until the paper is attached to the deer. The piece of paper must be attached to the deer if the individual who takes the deer does not maintain direct physical control of and constant visual contact with the deer carcass.

(n) An individual who takes a deer must cause delivery of the deer carcass to an official checking station for registration in the name of the individual who took the deer or cause the reporting of the take by providing the information required by the department's electronic harvest reporting system on the occurrence of the earlier of the following:

- (1) Within forty-eight (48) hours of the taking of the deer.
- (2) Before the deer is removed from this state.

The individual who delivers the deer carcass to an official checking station for registration or reports the take on the department's electronic harvest reporting system must provide true and accurate information that includes the information on the piece of paper described in subsection (m).

(o) The head of a deer must remain attached to the carcass until the deer is registered either at an official checking station or through the department's electronic harvest reporting system.

(p) When a deer is registered, **the following:**

(1) At an official deer checking station, the checking station operator must record the permanent seal number on the log, collect the piece of paper described in subsection (m), and give the seal to the individual. The individual must immediately affix the seal:

- (A) between a tendon and bone;
- (B) through a section of skin or flesh; or
- (C) around a branched antler;

to prevent its removal (without cutting the seal or the body part to which it is affixed). The seal must be maintained until processing of the deer begins.

(2) Using the department's electronic harvest reporting system, the individual who took the deer must record the confirmation number on the piece of paper described in subsection (m). This confirmation number must be maintained with the deer until processing of the deer begins.

(q) The checking station operator must do the following:

- (1) Accurately and legibly complete all forms provided by the department.
- (2) Make those forms available to department personnel upon request.

(r) The permanent seal issued by the checking station or the department's electronic harvest confirmation number must be maintained with a deer that is gifted to another individual until processing of the deer begins.

(s) An individual must not hunt deer except from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.

(t) An individual must wear hunter orange:

- (1) in a season set forth in section 4(b), 4(e), 4(f), and 4(h) of this rule;
- (2) in that portion of the archery season set forth in section 4(c) of this rule that overlaps a season set forth in section **4(b)**, 4(e), 4(f), and 4(h) of this rule; ~~and~~
- (3) when firearms are authorized under section 8(b) of this rule;
- (4) in that portion of the urban deer season set forth in section 4(d) of this rule that overlaps a season and is in a location where hunting is authorized in section 4(b), 4(e), 4(f) and 4(h) of this rule; and**
- (5) in the special antlerless season in the locations where the season is authorized in section 4(h) of this rule.**

(u) A ground blind that is:

~~(1) occupied must contain a minimum of one hundred forty-four (144) square inches of material on each side that is solid hunter orange and is visible from any direction during:~~

~~(A) a season set forth in section 4(b), 4(e), 4(f), and 4(h) of this rule; and~~

~~(B) that portion of the archery season set forth in section 4(e) of this rule that overlaps a season set forth in section 4(e), 4(f), and 4(h) of this rule;~~

~~(2) left unoccupied on department property must visibly bear the name and address of the owner written in the English language in a conspicuous location on the outside of the blind near the entrance.~~

~~(v)~~ An individual must not take more than one (1) antlered deer during the special youth, archery, firearm, and muzzleloader seasons authorized in section 4 of this rule from the first day of the special youth deer season of one (1) calendar year through the last day of the archery season in the following calendar year.

~~(w)~~ (v) An individual must not hunt deer with the use or aid of:

(1) bait, which includes:

(A) a food that is transported and placed for consumption, including, but not limited to, piles of corn and apples placed in the field;

(B) a prepared solid or liquid that is manufactured and intended for consumption by livestock or wild deer, including, but not limited to, commercial baits and food supplements;

(C) salt; or

(D) mineral supplements;

(2) snares;

(3) dogs; or

(4) other domesticated animals.

The use of manufactured scents and lures or similar chemical or natural attractants is not prohibited.

~~(x)~~ (w) An area is considered baited for ten (10) days after the removal of the bait and the baited soil. Hunting an area, such as an orchard, which may be attractive to deer as the result of normal agricultural activity, is not prohibited.

~~(y)~~ (x) Notwithstanding subsection ~~(w)~~ (v), an individual may use dogs only while on a leash to track or trail wounded deer.

~~(z)~~ (y) Notwithstanding subsection ~~(w)~~ (v), an individual may use:

(1) donkeys;

(2) mules; and

(3) horses;

for transportation to and from a hunt but not while hunting.

~~(aa)~~ (z) An individual must not hunt white-tailed deer possessed under the authority of a game breeder license under 312 IAC 9-10-4.

~~(bb)~~ (aa) An individual may possess a handgun in accordance with IC 35-47 while hunting deer.

~~(ee)~~ (bb) "Deer license bundle" means a multiple privilege deer license that **replaces a valid deer hunting license and** allows an individual to take one (1) antlered deer and two (2) antlerless deer or three (3) antlerless deer **in accordance with this section and sections 3 and 4 of this rule** in the **following seasons combined in one (1) year:**

- (1) Special youth.
- (2) Archery.
- (3) Firearms.
- (4) Muzzleloader. ~~and~~
- (5) Special antlerless only.

~~seasons combined in one (1) year in accordance with the provisions in this section and sections 3 and 4 of this rule.~~ (Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-2; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2702; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1528; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 536; filed May 12, 2006, 10:38 a.m.: 29 IR 3344; filed Jun 23, 2006, 2:24 p.m.: 20060719-IR-312050214FRA; errata filed Jul 21, 2006, 1:56 p.m.: 20060802-IR-312050214ACA; filed Jul 10, 2007, 2:09 p.m.: 20070808-IR-312060572FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Nov 3, 2009, 3:34 p.m.: 20091202-IR-312090044FRA; filed Dec 1, 2011, 4:01 p.m.: 20111228-IR-312110101FRA; errata filed Jan 10, 2012, 1:19 p.m.: 20120125-IR-312120006ACA; filed Jul 9, 2012, 3:00 p.m.: 20120808-IR-312120065FRA; filed Dec 18, 2012, 2:00 p.m.: 20130116-IR-312120115FRA)

SECTION 4. 312 IAC 9-3-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22; IC 35-47-2

Sec. 3. (a) During the youth special deer season established in section 4(b) of this rule, a youth hunter must hunt deer only with the following equipment:

- (1) A bow and arrow as described in subsection (b)(1) through (b)(5).
- (2) A crossbow as defined in 312 IAC 9-1-5.3.
- (3) A shotgun as described in subsection (d)(1).
- (4) A muzzleloading long gun as described in subsection (d)(3).
- (5) A rifle, with the use of cartridges described in subsection (d)(4).

(b) During the archery season established in section 4(c) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with ~~the following~~ equipment **as follows:**

- (1) **With** a long bow, **recurve bow**, or compound bow that has at least thirty-five (35) pounds pull with a valid license identified at section 2(f) of this rule.
- (2) **With** a crossbow with a valid license identified at section 2(g) of this rule.
- (3) Arrows or bolts must be equipped with metal or metal-edged (or flint, chert, or obsidian napped) broadheads.

- (4) Poisoned or explosive arrows or bolts are unlawful.
- (5) For long bows, recurve bows, and compound bows:
 - ~~(A) bows drawn, held, or released other than by hand or hand held releases are unlawful; and~~
 - ~~(B)~~ no portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any:
 - (i) track;
 - (ii) trough;
 - (iii) channel;
 - (iv) arrow rest; or
 - (v) other device;
 that attaches to the bow's riser shall contact, support, or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height.

(c) During the firearms season established in section 4(e) of this rule and the special antlerless season established in section 4(h) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with any of the following equipment:

- (1) A shotgun.
- (2) A shotgun with rifled barrel.
- (3) A handgun.
- (4) A muzzleloading long gun.
- (5) A muzzleloading handgun.
- (6) A rifle, with the use of cartridges described in subsection (d)(4) only.

(d) As used in section 2 of this rule, this section, and sections 4 through 8 of this rule, a firearm must meet the following specifications:

- (1) A shotgun must have a gauge 10, 12, 16, 20, or .410 bore loaded with a single projectile.
- (2) A handgun must:
 - (A) conform to the requirements of IC 35-47-2;
 - (B) have a barrel at least four (4) inches long;
 - (C) fire a bullet of two hundred forty-three thousandths (.243) inch diameter or larger; and
 - (D) not be a rifle that has a barrel less than eighteen (18) inches or is designed or redesigned to be fired from the shoulder.

The handgun cartridge case, without bullet, must be at least one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches long. Full metal jacketed bullets are unlawful. All 25/20, 32/20, 30 carbine, and 38 special ammunition is prohibited.

- (3) A muzzleloading long gun must be .44 caliber or larger, loaded with a bullet at least three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) inch or larger. A muzzleloading handgun must be single shot, .50 caliber or larger, loaded with bullets at least .44 caliber and have a barrel at least twelve (12) inches long. The length of a muzzleloading handgun barrel is determined by measuring from the base of the breech plug, excluding tangs and other projections, to the end of the barrel, including the muzzle crown. A muzzleloading gun must be capable of being loaded only from the muzzle, including both powder and bullet.
- (4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications:

(A) Fire a bullet of three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) of an inch diameter or larger.

(B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.

(C) Have a maximum case length of one and eight-tenths (1.8) inches.

~~(5) Over and under combination rifle shotguns are prohibited.~~

(e) During the muzzleloader season established in section 4(f) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with a:

(1) muzzleloading long gun as described in subsection (d)(3); or

(2) muzzleloading handgun as described in subsection (d)(3).

(f) During the urban deer season established in section 4(d) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer with bows and arrows described in section 3(b) of this rule.

(g) An individual must not erect, place, or hunt from a permanent tree or ground blind on state owned lands. A tree or ground blind placed on:

(1) a DNR property as defined at 312 IAC 8-1-4(3);

(2) U.S. Forest Service lands; or

(3) any national wildlife refuge;

must be portable and may be left overnight only between September 1 and January 10. A fastener used in conjunction with a tree blind and a tree or pole climber that penetrates a tree more than one-half (1/2) inch is prohibited. Each tree or ground blind must be legibly marked with the name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the blind in the English language.

(h) An individual must not use infrared sensors to locate or take deer. An individual must not hunt or retrieve deer with the aid of an infrared detector.

(i) An individual must not possess or use an electronic deer call while hunting deer. *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-3; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2703; filed Nov 13, 1997, 12:09 p.m.: 21 IR 1272; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1530; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 538; filed Jun 23, 2006, 2:24 p.m.: 20060719-IR-312050214FRA; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:30 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060272FRA; filed Sep 6, 2007, 12:20 p.m.: 20071003-IR-312070023FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Nov 3, 2009, 3:34 p.m.: 20091202-IR-312090044FRA; filed Dec 1, 2011, 4:01 p.m.: 20111228-IR-312110101FRA)*

SECTION 5. 312 IAC 9-3-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-3-4 Season dates and bag limits

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 4. (a) An individual must not take more than one (1) deer with each deer license.

(b) The special youth deer season is two (2) consecutive days beginning on the Saturday immediately before October 1 or as approved annually by the director.

(1) The seasonal limit for hunting deer under this subsection is one (1) antlered deer and the number of antlerless deer established under subsection (g) for the county being hunted.

(2) A youth hunter who takes an antlered deer under this subsection may not take another antlered deer during the:

- (A) archery seasons established in subsection (c);
- (B) firearm season established in subsection (e); or
- (C) muzzleloader season established in subsection (f).

(3) As used in this section, "youth" means an individual who is less than eighteen (18) years of age by the date of the hunt.

(4) A youth who hunts a deer under this subsection must be accompanied by an adult of at least eighteen (18) years of age who:

- (A) does not possess a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow while in the field;
- (B) possesses a valid hunting license of any type that is not an apprentice license;
- (C) must not accompany more than two (2) youth hunters at any one (1) time; and
- (D) must be in close proximity and able to communicate with the youth hunter at all times.

(c) The archery deer season is from October 1 through the first Sunday in January. An individual must take not more than two (2) deer of which only one (1) may be antlered under this subsection.

(d) The urban deer season is as follows:

(1) From September 15 through January 31 of the following year in an urban deer zone.

(2) Under this subsection:

- (A) An individual must take not more than four (4) deer of which only one (1) may be antlered.
- (B) At least one (1) antlerless deer must be taken in an urban deer zone prior to taking an antlered deer.

(3) A deer taken under this subsection does not count against a bag limit for deer set elsewhere in this rule.

(4) The following areas have been designated as urban deer zones subject to the urban deer season:

(A) The Indianapolis urban deer zone includes the following:

- (i) All of Marion County.
- (ii) That portion of Hendricks County east of State Highway 267.
- (iii) The southeast portion of Boone County as bounded by the following:
 - (AA) State Highway 267.
 - (BB) Interstate Highway 65.
 - (CC) State Highway 32.

(iv) That portion of Hamilton County south of State Highway 32.

(B) The Fort Wayne urban deer zone includes that portion of Allen County lying within the bounds of Interstate Highway 69 and State Highway 469.

(C) The Evansville urban deer zone includes all of Vanderburgh County.

(D) The Lafayette urban deer zone includes the portion of Tippecanoe County north of State Highway 28.

- (E) The Lake County urban deer zone includes all of Lake County.
- (F) The Porter County urban deer zone includes all of Porter County.
- (G) The Michigan City urban deer zone includes that portion of LaPorte County north of U.S. Highway 94.
- (H) The Warsaw urban deer zone includes the portion of Kosciusko County within the corporate limits of the city of Warsaw.

(e) The firearms deer season is from the first Saturday after November 11 and continues for an additional fifteen (15) days. An individual must take not more than one (1) antlered deer under this subsection.

(f) The deer hunting season for only using a muzzleloading long gun or muzzleloading handgun is from the first Saturday after the closing day of firearms season as established in subsection (e) and continues for an additional fifteen (15) days. An individual must not take more than one (1) deer of either sex under this subsection.

(g) The season and bag limit for hunting antlerless deer in a designated county, by authority of an extra deer bonus antlerless license, shall be established on an annual basis by a temporary rule authorized by the director.

(h) The special antlerless deer season is from December 26 through the first Sunday in January of the following year in counties with an antlerless quota of four (4) or more deer. An individual may take only antlerless deer under this subsection and may take only the number established under subsection (g) for the county being hunted.

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-3-4; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2703; filed Nov 5, 1997, 3:25 p.m.: 21 IR 930; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1530; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 538; filed May 25, 2005, 10:15 a.m.: 28 IR 2945; filed Jun 29, 2007, 2:30 p.m.: 20070725-IR-312060272FRA; filed Jul 10, 2007, 2:09 p.m.: 20070808-IR-312060572FRA; filed Sep 6, 2007, 12:20 p.m.: 20071003-IR-312070023FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Nov 3, 2009, 3:34 p.m.: 20091202-IR-312090044FRA; filed Nov 12, 2009, 3:53 p.m.: 20091209-IR-312090060FRA; filed Dec 1, 2011, 4:01 p.m.: 20111228-IR-312110101FRA)